



The Miserable Blessing

Luke 1

Part 1

December 4, 2022

Edward Church

Prosperity Message

Prosperity Message

The Message of Prosperity...

...Has Not Only Softened

...the Gospel Message

...it has Softened Many Pilgrims



COVID-19
Plus

This Mindset has Crept into the Church

Shallow Victory

This Mindset has Crept into the Church

We Want to Be An Overcomer...

..With Out the Challenge of Overcoming

We Want the Spoils of Victory ...

...Without the Scars of the Battle

That Has Never Been God's Plan

Shallow Victory

That Has Never Been God's Plan

Mighty Army

That Has Never Been God's Plan

He is Raising Up a Mighty Army...

...Not Afraid to Face the Challenge

...Not Afraid to Collect Scars

...to Stand in this Last Generation

...and Declare...

We Will Not Go Silently in the Night!

Mighty Army

Easy to Lose Sight of REAL BLESSINGS

Why?

Easy to Lose Sight of REAL BLESSINGS

Real Blessings Don't Always Come...

- **without Struggle**
- **without Pain**
- **with Answers**

Often Leaves You Asking..

Lord...

If I Am SO BLESSED...

...Then Why Am I So Miserable?

Why?

Tribulation

Distress

Misery

Tribulation

- **Blessing = Building**
- **Building = Struggle**
- **Struggle = Misery (temporary)**
- **Misery = Blessing**

2 Corinthians 4:17

*For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

- **Affliction**=tribulation, distress, **misery**

Misery

Anatomy
of a
Blessing

The Promise - Time

- Abraham Seed

The Problem - Test

- Barren

The Path - Testimony

- Let Go and Let God

Atomomy Of a Blessing

The Promise - Time

- **Abraham Seed**

The Problem - Test

- **Barren**

The Path - Testimony

- **Let Go and Let God**

Of a

B **Not Matter of Earning Blessing**

- **But Matter of Letting God**
- **Build You to Be Able to Handle Blessing**
- **Rem the Blessing Glorifies God**

⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ And **they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well stricken in years.** ⁸ And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, ⁹ According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared unto him an **angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.** ¹² And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said unto him, **Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.** ¹⁴ And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

¹⁵ For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

¹⁶ And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. ¹⁸ And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for **I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.** ¹⁹ And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. ²⁰ And, **behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed,** because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. ²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. ²⁴ And after those days his wife **Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months,** saying, ²⁵ Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among men. **Luke 1:5-39 (KJV)**

The Miserable Blessing Starts...

Zacharias and Elisabeth

- Zacharias Doubts Message -Miserable**
- Zacharias Stricken Dumb -Miserable**
- Elisabeth Happy but Hiding -Miserable**
- Baby Not Moved til Mary Arrives - -Miserable**
- Zacharias Mouth Opens When Delivers Name**

HELP ME GOD

I AM SO

MISERABLE

Know ...

- He is Still IN Charge
- He Has Your Best Interest at Heart
- His Timing is Always Perfect

GOD

I AM SO

MISERABLE

Know ...

- **He is Still IN Charge**
- **He Has Your Best Interest at Heart**
- **His Timing is Always Perfect**

GOD

I AM SO

When You Can't See His Plan

When You Can't See His Hand

You Can Trust His Heart!

MISERABLE

**THERE IS
ONE
THING
THAT GOD SAYS TO
EVERY
BELIEVER,
REGARDLESS OF HIS
CIRCUMSTANCES —**
"Trust Me."

EVEN THOUGH YOU STRUGGLE,
GOD LOVES YOU
AND HE ALWAYS WILL.