

**Jesus is Born
Praise God!**





The Miserable Blessing

Luke 1

Part 2

December 11, 2022

Edward Church

Soft Gospel has Crept into the Church

Shallow Victory

Soft Gospel 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

Shallow Victory

Soft Gospel 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

He is Raising Up a Mighty Army...

...Not Afraid to Face the Challenge

...Not Afraid to Collect Scars

...to Stand in this Last Generation

...

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

Real Blessings Don't Always Come...

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

Why?

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Real Blessings Don't Always Come...

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

Often Leaves You Asking..

Lord...

If I Am SO BLESSED...

...Then Why Am I So Miserable?

Why?

Not Matter of Earning Blessing

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

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

Luke 1:26-31 (KJV)

*²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art **highly favoured**, the Lord is with thee: **blessed art thou among women.** ²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

*³⁰ And the angel said unto her, **Fear not**, Mary: for thou hast **found favour with God.** ³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*



The Miserable Blessing Story Continues...





The Miserable Blessing Story Continues...

Angel Appears to Mary and Says...

...You Are

- Highly Favored**
- Blessed**

...And He Could Have Added

...Stressed!

1st- Mary Has Trouble Believing Angel -Miserable

2nd- Joseph Has Trouble Believing Mary –Miserable

**3rd- Trip To Bethlehem(90-100 mi =10 mi / day)
–Miserable**

4th- Upon Arrival “No Room” but a Cave- Miserable

Miserable

Miserable

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- 2nd- Joseph Has Trouble Believing Mary –Miserable**
- 3rd- Trip To Bethlehem(90-100 mi =10 mi / day) –Miserable**
- 4th- Upon Arrival “No Room” but a Cave- Miserable**
- 5th- Shepherds Maneuvered in Night–Miserable**
- 6th- Wise Men-Travelled 2 years –at Night –Miserable**
- 7th- Uprooted Middle Of Night Trip to Egypt – Miserable**
- 8th- Herod Kills All Male Children 2 / under -Miserable**

Miserable

But Blessed



But Blessed

You Never Judge Your Blessing

- **During the Process**
- **But By the End Product**



Process Makes You Tough



Misery is in the Process

Process Makes You Tough Wilderness is There to Purge

- **Motives**
- **Faith**
- **Fear**



Misery is in the Process

Process Makes You Tough Wilderness is There to Purge Your...

- Motives
- Faith
- Fear



Isaiah 43:1-3 (KJV)

¹ But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. ² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour

Misery is in the Process

Isaiah 43:1-3 (NLT)

¹ But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

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Isaiah 43:1-3 (MSG)

¹ But now, GOD's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. ² When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— ³ Because I am GOD, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you: all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in!



**GOD KNOWS
WHAT'S BEST
FOR YOU.**

ISAIAH 55:9

Isaiah 43:1 (KJV)

But now thus saith the **LORD**

- **created** thee, O Jacob, (Produce)
- **formed** thee, O Israel, (Re-Produce)
 - Fear not: for I have (Power)
 - **redeemed** thee, (Purpose)
 - **called *thee*** by thy **name**
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² When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

a Blessing
in disguise



Seasons of Misery

- **Realize**

- Help Us Realize Our Limitations

- **Reach**

- Force Us to Reach Out to God for Help

- **Reveal**

- Reveal God and His Saving Grace / Strength

- **Adjust**

- Help Us Adjust Our Attitudes

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

When You Don't Know His Plan

When You Can't See His Hand

You Can Trust His Heart!

MISERABLE

**Thank God for...
...Our Miserable Blessings**



Thank God for... ...Our Miserable Blessings



They Often Lead to a Time of...

- Hope
- Second Chances
- Redemption
- Promises Fulfilled