**9th May, 2021 B**utterworth **G**ospel **H**all

**R850 Rumination for 9th May 2021 (Mother’s Day Rumination) by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Elisabeth, the Exemplary Mother** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* Lk. 1:41, NKJV

The **T**hots:

Intro.:

My Mother!

Today there is a **M**ovement to **E**mpower Women. What is this Women’s **E**mpowerment?

*Women's Empowerment* can be defined as promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

In summary, it has to do with A Woman’s Rights, **R**oles, **R**esponsibilities, **R**espect and **R**ecognition.

Today is **M**other’s Day. What does the Bible teach about the typical Mother, and hence, the Woman.

**E**lisabeth was an **E**xemplary Mother who is difficult to find today. That she could combine the following qualities in her singular character sets her out as one **E**xample that mothers today will do well to **E**mulate.

1. **She was a Godly Woman.**
	1. **E**lisabethwas of priestly lineage **– A**aron, the high priest, was her **A**ncestor. Lk. 1:5

*Zacharias...and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.*

Cf. We are *a holy priesthood.* I Pet. 2:5

All **B**orn-again **B**abes in Christ are **B**rethren of equal status in the sight of God. I Pet. 2:2, 5, 9 NKJV

*As newborn babes…you also…are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood*, (and a royal priesthood) *to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

* 1. **E**lisabeth was named after Aaron’s wife, ***E****lisheba*.

*Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife*. Exo. 6:23

1. Her name, ***Elisabeth***, means “*my God has sworn an oath*” or “*God is (my) oath*”.
	1. For God to be linked with an oath is to **P**oint to His immutable **P**romises: Heb. 6:17, 18

*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.*

* 1. When God **S**peaks He cannot lie, being God Himself: *God, that cannot lie* Tit. 1:2
	2. When God **S**wears, it is to assure us, that we *might be strongly encouraged*. Heb. 6:18, NRSV
1. Godly ***Elisabeth*** is only mentioned in Lk. 1 (8 occurrences in KJV) Lk. 1:5ff; see #C.3b
* She was Blessed and a **B**lesser – consider her **B**eatitudes. Lk. 1:5ff; see #C.3b
	1. Elisabeth **V**erily was an Israelite **V**irgin – she was a **W**oman of **W**orth.
1. The life-**P**artner of a high priest could only be a virgin. Lev. 21:10, 13, 14

*He that is the high priest among his brethren…shall take a wife in her virginity.* Cf. II Cor. 11:2)

1. A high **P**riest could only take a wife from his own **P**eople. Lev. 21:14b

*but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.*

Cf. *Zacharias...and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.* Lk. 1:5

* A Christian **M**arriage **M**ust not be **M**is-**M**atched with unbelievers: II Cor. 6:14**,** HCSB
*Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?*
1. **She was a Gracious Wife.**
2. She was the wife of Zacharias the priest. Lk. 1:5

Zacharias abided by the laws of Moses and married a girl of the tribe of Levi

* 1. She and her husband were **B**oth **S**piritually **M**inded.
	2. In **C**haracter: *they were both righteous* *before God.* Lk. 1:6

*Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:* 1:41

*And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost.* 1:67

* The Man and the Woman have equal **R**ights before God. Gal. 3:28

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free,*

*there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

* Though they play different **R**oles and have different **R**esponsibilities.

*In the church*: Man is the Head of the Woman as God is the Head of Christ and Christ the Head of Man.

– *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ;*

 *and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.* I Cor. 11:3

In the Home: The Husband is the Head of the Woman and he is to love his Wife. Eph. 5:23, 25

 *The husband is the head of the wife,* ***even as*** *Christ is the head of the church:*

 *Husbands, love your wives,* ***even as*** *Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;*

 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands,* ***as*** *unto the Lord.* Eph. 5:22

* But both **P**arents are to have equal **R**espect from their Children. Eph. 6:1-2

 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

 *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)*

* 1. In **C**omportment:they were *walking in all His commandments and ordinances of the Lord*
* Zacharias was Busy in his **P**riestly Ministry: Lk. 1:8, 9

*He executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.*

* Both were conscious of their **P**arental Responsibility.

*And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child…* Lk. 1:59

* 1. In **C**onduct: they were *blameless*. Lk. 1:6

*And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying,*

*What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.* Lk. 1:65-66

* 1. However, she was **B**arren till her old age: it was a great trial to her and her husband.
1. Her **C**ondition was not the result of **S**in as both were “*upright*” in the **S**ight of God. Lk, 1:6
2. God was **C**ommitting them to His greater **P**urposes in their lives and His **P**lan was **P**erfect.
	1. Later, **A**ngel Gabriel **A**ppeared to **A**nnounce that their prayer for a **C**hild would be **A**nswered,

 and their son should be named John. He would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Lk. 1:11 cf. 13

*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. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.*

However, Zacharias was faithless and was “punished” for a season. Lk. 1:20

*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.*

* 1. Elisabeth **S**hared well her husband’s visionary **M**andate from the angel. Lk. 1:13
1. When the child was born, she insisted that her **N**ewborn’s **N**ame should be John, and not Zecharias –

*And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.* Lk. 1:60

1. Though it would be an **H**onour for her **H**usband, but it was against God’s **M**ind –

Her **H**usband confirmed and…*wrote, saying,* ***H****is name is John. And they* ***M****arvelled all*. Lk.1:63

* She **S**poke out but she was of the **S**ame mind as her husband.
1. **She was a Great Mother**
	1. She was the **M**other of John the Baptist – she would be unknown, but her son would be well-known.

*Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist…* Matt. 11:11

Undoubtedly in the shadow of this godly man was a godly mother, who raised him in the fear of the Lord.

* 1. She was **R**elated to **M**ary, the **M**other of Jesus – *the mother of my Lord.* Lk. 1:34-36, 43
	2. She was a **R**everent Mother, *filled with the Holy Spirit*. Lk. 1:41c
1. She **R**eceived special **R**evelation **R**egarding Mary’s Son – *she was blessed among women*. Lk. 1:42-45
2. Though not **R**eferred to elsewhere, she is highly **R**espected for her anthem of **B**eatitudes (***B****lessed –* 3x)
3. She **A**ppreciated the Blessings for herself:

*that the* ***m****other of my Lord should come to me.* Lk. 1:43

*As soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.* Lk. 1:44

1. She **A**nnounced the three-fold Beatitudes re: Mary:

*Blessed art thou among women* Lk. 1:42

*Blessed is the fruit of thy womb.* Lk. 1:42

*Blessed is she that believed, for there shall be a performance of those things*

*which were told her from the Lord* Lk. 1:45

1. **M**ary’s **M**agnificent **A**nthem, the ***M****agnificat* - *My soul doth magnify the Lord* Lk. 1:46-55
	1. She and her husband **R**aised up their child well. Lk. 1:80

The Hand of the Lord was with them in bringing up the child. Lk. 1:66b

*And the hand of the Lord was with him.*

1. *And the child grew* i.e., physically. Cf. 1:15
2. *Waxed strong in spirit –* i.e., spiritually; ct. today’s world of producing physical giants and spiritual pygmies.
3. *Was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel –* Allowed God to **B**ring up their child.
4. Compare Moses and his “Wilderness” Experience:
* He was in Pharoah’s Palace forty years thinking he was somebody. Acts 7:23

*And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.*

* Then he was in the wilderness forty years, learning that he was nobody. Acts 7:30

 *And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.*

* Finally, he led Israel forty years learning what God could do with a nobody. Acts 7:36

*He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.*

1. Cf. Paul – He was in the desert of Arabia learning from God three years. Gal. 1:17-18

*I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.*

Elisabeth was a **G**odly Woman, a **G**racious Wife and a **G**reat Mother;

she cooperated with God in Bringing her son up to Be what God wanted him to Be!

***Blessed Mother’s Day to all Mothers!***

***Hope you have placed your Life Investment in the Lord*.**

Elisabeth was a Great Mother - she cooperated with God in **B**ringing her son up to be what God wanted him to be!

*Only to be what He wants me to be Every moment of every day.*

*Yielded completely to Jesus alone, Every step of this pilgrim way.*

*Just to be clay in the Potter’s hand, Ready to do what His Word commands.*

*Only to be what He wants me to be, Every moment of every day.*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 850**

1. Below is a table to compare and contrast:

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| --- | --- |
| **Self-Empowerment**By Sherrie CampbellPsychologist, Author, SpeakerFor Full article please refer:<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/288340> | **Spirit-Empowerment as Enunciated in Scripture.**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)*But* ***you shall receive power*** *when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*  |
| How can you, as an individual, **live the most empowered life** possible? By working. Work to make a significant difference in this world. Focus on what you can control, which is your hope, your attitude, your drive, your willingness to hustle, your commitment to keeping an objective and empowered mindset. If you’re individual life is empowered, it can only have an empowering impact on all those who surround you.* + - **Open to Possibilities.**

If you want a better outcome, then create it. Your opportunities for new hope and change are boundless, and it all starts within you. | *I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.* *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* *He must increase, but I must decrease.**I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* | Philippians 4:12-13 (NKJV) John 3:30 (NKJV)Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) |
| * + - **Focus on who you are….**

When you shift your focus onto yourself and wholeheartedly and non-violently live your answers, it is then that you are living a life of true authenticity and significance. | *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.* *Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ* | Philippians 3:7-8 (NKJV)  |
| * + - **Run your own race.**

Another person’s success does not equate as your failure. It’s your life, so focus on your race. Instead of worrying about the competition, focus on the ball that is directly in front of you | *Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith…I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* | Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) 2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)  |
| **4. Trust yourself.**Trust that you have what it takes to get the job done. Trust empowers you to move aggressively towards your goals. If you spend your time doubting your skills, the only thing you will be actively perfecting is your ability to doubt yourself. Your actions follow your thoughts. Shift all that time focusing on doubting yourself to believing in yourself.  | *That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**He must increase, but I must decrease.* | Philippians 3:10-11 (NKJV)John 3:30 (NKJV)  |
| **5. Network**.To empower yourself, collaborate don’t compete. Success is never a one man job. One of the smartest ways to move your mission forward is to network. Gather a team of people who have strengths to fill in where you have weaknesses. | *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.* *Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,*  | Philippians 2:3-5 (NRSV)  |

Should the Christian be seeking after Self-empowerment or Spirit-Empowerment?

Will the Christian be losing to his/her peers in society if he/she chooses the latter? **REFLECT.**

1. In these days of “moral enlightenment” a teenager finds it difficult not to lose her virginity.

 Can she be a “Good Girl” as Elisabeth was?

 Cf. Sarah (Gen. 17:15), Rachel (Gen. 30:22-24) and Hannah (I Sam. 1:19-20, cf. 27, 28).

 In each case God worked in their lives. **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** *Hannah lent Samuel to the Lord for Life. (I Sam. 1:27,28) This was Mother Hannah’s Life investment.*

***Blessed Mother’s Day to all Mothers!***

***Hope you have placed your Life Investment in the Lord*.**