

## One word caught attention – Greeting

- 3 times
- Mary's greeting does something
  - Child leaped in Elizabeth's womb
  - She was filled with the Holy Spirit
  - She exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
- Luke doesn't tell us what this greeting was
  - I wish he had
- No other gospel gives us this story
- Look at other greetings
  - Start with Angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary
    - 1:28: "Greetings! Favored one! The Lord is with you."
      - Mary perplexed
      - Angel extends greetings with the promise, "Do not be afraid."
        - The same greeting an Angel gave to Zechariah (1:13), "Do not be afraid"
  - Other gospel greetings
    - Matthew
      - Angel doesn't visit Mary, but rather Joseph
        - "Do not be afraid." (1:20)
      - Following Jesus' death
        - Empty tomb
          - Angel to women "Do not be afraid." (28:5)
      - Likewise in Mark
        - Man dressed in white to women, "Do not be alarmed" (16:6)
      - Jesus' greetings following his resurrection
        - To women as meets on way as they go and tell disciples
          - "Do not be afraid, go and tell..." (Matthew 28:9-10)

- Jesus to disciples (28:16-20)
    - Great commission
      - Go and make disciples, baptize and teach
      - “Remember, I am with you always”
  - Luke 23:36
    - To disciples
      - “Peace be with you.”
- Greetings are short but powerful
  - Full of hope, promise, assurance and the presence of God and the resurrected Christ
- Greetings also filled with a purpose
- Mary filled with the greetings of the angel, believing in the promise she had found favor with God, she was blessed states:
  - 1:38 “Here I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done with me according to your word.”
- We have received greetings of the Lord
  - Baptism, “Child of God, you are signed with the cross of Christ forever.”
  - “The peace of Christ be with you.” “Go in peace, share the good news.”
- God’s greetings cause us to leap for joy
- Fill us with the Holy Spirit.
- Send us with haste to tell the good news
- To extend greetings to others.
  - Short, simple greetings, “The Lord is with you.” “Do not be afraid.”
    - Powerful
    - Full of hope and promise
    - Presence of Christ
    - They, like Mary’s, can do something in the one receiving the greeting
      - Because they are rooted in what God has done
      - Rooted in our response to say, “Here I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done with me according to your word.”
    - Our greetings matter
      - What will those greetings be?