

Title: Enlarge Your Heart

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 6/11/23

This is the Lord Jesus speaking during the time of a feast.

John 7:37-38 ESV

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

Luke 1:5-17 ESV

“In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and to burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

I want to stop here and go back to verse ten.

“And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.”

The Lord is bringing an exhortation from this word. I don't know if you know this, but we are a House that is now praying for something specifically. The Lord has called us to pray. Leaders are praying in *groups* of twos and threes. We are gathered “as a multitude to pray and bring incense before God.” We are gathered together in the Spirit, in the vision, and in the call. We don't know what He wants to bring. We don't know the word that will break forth. We just want His glory. We want His presence. We want whatever He has for this land and this dirt. *May His Kingdom come, His will be done, in His glory here.* You can join in on that if you want to. You can be a part of that multitude that is praying in “an hour of incense” and a time of supplication.

But, we have to be praying the same things. We have to know what we are praying for. That is the bond of peace. That is the unity of the Holy Spirit. What are we praying for? What are you praying for? We are praying for the glory of God to come. We are praying for the Kingdom of God to dwell. What does that look like? What are you talking about? What do you mean?

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Zechariah is the one that is going in. He is going to have an encounter of the word of the Lord. That is not what he is expecting. It is not what anybody expected on this day. He goes in and the angel tells him, *“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.”*

Now, Elizabeth, is the key factor in all of this. Anytime in the Bible that we see a woman with barrenness, there is a great promise that comes forth from it. A great promise comes forth from women who the Bible mentions as being “barren.” The first one was Abram's wife, Sara, who was barren, and the promise was their son, Isaac. Isaac's wife, Rebecca, was barren, but Isaac prayed and the promise was two sons, Esau and Jacob, who were two nations. Jacob's wife Rachel, that he loved, was barren. The promise that came through her was Joseph (meaning “I will add”) and Benjamin (meaning, “I will add another.”)

Later there was the dad and mom of Samson. The angel of the Lord came to her and said, *“you will have a child, but you must know that he is to be set apart for him to have a double portion of my spirit in the might of God. He must be a Nazarite.”* Samson was a judge of power and righteousness, and of might and thunder. A very fierce judge of the Lord.

Later, the voice of the Lord was not being heard, and a barren woman named Hannah, cried to the Lord. Not with her voice, but with her heart. The Lord saw the prayers and her barrenness was lifted by God and she had Samuel, whose name means, “God hears.” It was written, *“there has not been a prophet since Moses, that was like Samuel, who saw and heard. Not one of his words “fell to the ground.”*

Throughout the Bible we see where a barren woman is blessed with a promise. In the New Testament, Elizabeth is barren and the promise comes of her son, John the Baptist, whose voice you have never heard. *“He is the voice crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”* For the One who would cry out on a feast day, *“If you are thirsty, come to me and drink.”* Jesus and John the Baptist are cousins who were six months apart.

Justice comes swiftly. It comes swiftly. You can go for an extended period of barrenness, or for an extended period of time where nothing is happening. No breakthrough is happening. But, justice comes swiftly with the word of the Lord. That is what we are pressing into. That is what this house is pressing into. It can feel like we are not producing the fruit that for decades we have had the faith for. It can feel like that. It can feel like we are not producing the fruit that we have believed and have been praying for. The signs, the miracles, the wonders, and the presence. People are driving by, but are not stopping yet.

As we exalt Jesus, why are they not coming? There is that discouragement that comes upon this House constantly. It is a bombardment here. But, the blessing is that if you see yourself as barren, a great promise is coming. A great promise is coming, that breaks forth, the way of the Lord. It breaks forth the promises of God and the blessings of Joseph, that “I will add, and I will keep on adding.” That breaks forth the princes of God, like Jacob who became Israel. That breaks forth the Isaac's, who are the children of God. The promise that brings forth prophets of God, as Samuel, who will hear and will speak the word of the Lord and it won't fall to the ground. That brings forth the Samson's that have the might of God and won't back down.

All of these things this House has prayed for. It is ours, because the One who came after John the Baptist, made away for the Spirit of the Lord to fall upon your men servants and your maid servants, your sons and your daughters, to have all of the glory of God. Christ in us the hope of glory, breaking through to the Father of lights. This is what we pray for. This is what we are praying for. This is the hour that He has called us to pray. We don't have a time to stop.

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He is wanting the faithfulness, the righteousness, and the pursuit of it. Elizabeth and Zechariah were seen as righteous before God, because they never stopped believing, pursuing, forgiving, trusting, crying, grieving morning and night with God, but then rising up in faith and treading on snakes and scorpions. Saying, "No, this is the truth. This is the way, and we are going to walk in it. This is what we have declared in this dirt. This is what we have said shall be, because it is not our ways, but the Lord's ways. He gave us these promises. We didn't conjure them up. That is His word. I trust that He accomplishes it."

There have been some in our house that have gone on *to be* with Jesus who believed this. We are carrying on that pursuit. People that have "prayed in this dirt." People that have walked the streets. We know them in our house. They have believed for a glory that the Lord would pour out, that has never been seen in the Earth. It can be wearisome here in a dry place that we call San Angelo. Can any good come out of here? Oh, yes, it can. Not because of what we have done, but because of His goodness and mercy. Because, I choose to believe the hem of His garment is all it takes to change the world. It's all it takes. "The violent press in and take the Kingdom by force. The violent press in and take it by force."

I want to go to verse 14 and read this again.

Luke 1:14 ESV

"And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord of people prepared."

Now this is an important prophecy because Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah would come, Elijah would come back. Elijah would show up. The prophet Elijah would come and turn the hearts back, and this is necessary for Jesus to come. This is necessary for the fulfillment to come. The angel, Gabriel comes and gives the message that this boy John, who becomes John the Baptist, fulfills this prophecy. But, he adds a little bit more than Malachi said. He adds that this one will "turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord, a people prepared."

John the Baptist was the one who the Lord inspired to baptize which had not been done. Not this dunking in the Jordan immersion way. It offended the Jews. That is why Jesus asked them if the baptism of John was from heaven or not? It put them in a dilemma. Jesus said, "I believe that it was from God and if it's from God, then I must follow it and I must do it." That is why we do it, because it was something that the Lord brought. It was needed to shift our hearts, and we must be baptized. Jesus was the one that honored the prophet in the name of Providence. Saying, "This is how it should be. This is from heaven. This is a word of the Lord." Water baptism is a principle that we need to be following. Jesus said, "I have a baptism as well."

Many of us believe we are obviously getting closer and closer to the end of the age. We know every day we get closer obviously. But, this mandate is coming upon the Bride. The "turning of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers, but also turning the disobedient back to the wisdom of the just." This is a nation that has lost both of those things. This is a nation that has lost the family, lost the heads of the houses, and lost the children. This is a nation that has seen the disobedient overcome and rule the wisdom of the just. Everyone is suffering for it. This mantle and this word that we are praying for, is part of what is going to come to this

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House as you seek the Lord and you pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. It is to be prepared.

The spirit of Elijah is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of John the Baptist, is the Holy Spirit. Scripture says, "he was baptized in the womb with the Holy Ghost." If the Holy Ghost is in me, then this Spirit is in me, the Spirit of Jesus. It is the Spirit of the Lord, "that turns the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers." But, it also turns the disobedient and the lawless back to the wisdom of the truth and of the just. Justice comes swiftly. Justice comes swiftly to make ready the way of the Lord. Make ready the way of the Lord.

Consistently the prophets have been saying there is a wave coming. But, consistently they say it is not the only one. There is a wave coming. There is a wave coming of a harvest, but the one after it is the way of the Lord. We are praying for the wave to come, but we have to be ready. We have to be aware that the Spirit of the Lord prepares the way for another wave of the Lord. It is all of the Lord. I know. I don't get confused. It is all of the Lord, but He prepares the way, and then a greater wave can come. He prepares the way and then a greater way can come. John the Baptist prepared the hearts. They were all seeking after God. That repentance was there, and their hearts were tender towards the Lord. They were seeing Him and the Greater One came. Something greater is here.

The bummer is that some of those who were in the first wave became offended that there was another wave. Some were offended that there was Jesus, six months behind John. That can't be us. We are on our knees and praying. We are being faithful to what God has given us. I choose to believe it. Then when it comes, I cannot settle and say, "that is it. We have done it." I have to say there is another one coming. I have to be more prepared than this one, because it will overtake you. That is where the church has become offended, when these waves have come. They don't expect another one coming. I am telling you the truth. This is a spiritual thing. This is a prophetic thing. This is a House of prophecy.

Luke 1:18-20 ESV

"And Zechariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know this for I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.' And the angel answered him, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their time.'"

Now, grace is on Zechariah and Elizabeth. His unbelief did not remove the promise from him. But, he suffered a price for it. We can suffer a price for unbelief. Even if the promise comes, we can suffer a price for unbelief. Even when the wave of a revival awakening glory comes to San Angelo, in the surrounding region, and sweeping through this state that we call Texas. We can suffer a price, but the promise can still come. You can still be blessed, but you can suffer a price for not believing what He has asked you to believe.

This House has been asked by God to believe a very great thing. I am not talking about people down the street. I don't know what God has told them. But, I know what He has told us. If you have been called to be in this House, then you must be of faith in what He has told *Brandy*. What He has told her is the call here. That is the mission here. That is the forerunning here. That is the House of Issachar here. That is the hard thing here. That is why it is hard. Because, you have to believe impossible things. Do you want to or not? I won't force you. I won't. *They* will be fulfilled in their time.

Luke 1:20 ESV

“And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time. And the people were waiting for Zechariah. And they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.”

We are gathering in this place, but I want you to realize that his encounter came in a secret place. His encounter came when it was just him and God. Our encounters of this glory are going to be how much you pursue God, one on one, and with Jesus, one on one. How much He is your obsession. How much He is your everything. You are my all, you're the best. You're my joy, my righteousness, and I love you. I love you, Lord. That is where this is going to happen.

Brandy and I need those encounters that you have with God. This House needs them more than you need my encounters with God. Because, that is when the whole church is being edified, grown, and knit together. You're not reliant upon one of the joints to get it all done. You're relying upon your everlasting wellspring of life. Remember, “Come to me, those who thirst and drink and I will give you rivers of living water.” Rivers of living water is the encounters you can have. This isn't the head of the Levitical priesthood. This is one that was chosen by rolling the dice.

We are praying at all different times of the day. The women are praying at all different times of day. The men are praying in the morning. Any one of those times before you pray or during the prayer, the Angel the Lord can come. I expect that, but I don't think it is just once. I believe there is an open heaven here, where we all are encountering the glory of God. We all are encountering heavenly places where you have been seated in Christ Jesus. “Set your mind on things above.” If you feel like you are barren there, then a promise is coming. Promises are coming that will break forth not only your life, but the region, the house, and the family of God.

Luke 1:22-25 ESV

“After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ‘Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.’”

I don't understand, and it jumped out to me that she did not tell anybody for five months. The barren woman, who has never had a child, did not tell anyone for five months. When we read the rest it doesn't appear that she was planning on telling anybody. There's a principle here, that in that intimate place with Jesus, He is going to give you something to birth. He is going to test you to see if you can keep it, guard it, and hold it. Am I more than enough? Just between me and you, am I more than enough? She hasn't told anybody that she is pregnant, but she knows that her reproach has been taken away from the public. But, there is no public affirmation here. The public is not rejoicing for her. But, she has already been cleansed from it. Her reproach is gone.

Jesus is more than enough. The Lord is more than enough. His promises to me are “yes and amen.” He is faithful and true. Even after all these years, I will not boast in myself. This victory will be between me and Him. The only reason why the news comes out is because somebody else gets pregnant and shows up at her door. You all know who I'm talking about.

Luke 1:25-32 ESV

“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people. In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! But, she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

We just talked about what the promise of John would bring. Remember, “the word of the Lord that comes in that first wave, *“turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, the disobedience to the wisdom of the just, to make ready the people prepared for the Lord.”*

Now this promise comes, *“He will be great and He will be called the Son of the Most High.” And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

Mary asks the same question that Zechariah did, right? Zechariah says, *“How shall I know this for I am an old man and my wife has advanced in years?”* Mary said, *“How will this be since I am a virgin?”*

You are thinking, Oh no, you should not have thought that? Right? Do you see how that is the same question asked? *The Angel* has a unique answer.

Luke 1:25-45 ESV

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child will be born and will be called holy— the Son of God.”

He is the son of his father David, and the Son of God. In these two sentences is a very important thing.

“And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God. And Mary said, Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

The spirit was different. The spirit was different in the question. The heart was different. With Zechariah, it is all black and white in the Spirit. The angel sees a heart of unbelief asking a question. With Mary, the the angel by the Spirit sees the heart of faith asking a question.

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“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

We have to ask our hearts. We have to ask the Lord, do we have a belief that there will be a fulfillment of what you have said is going to happen? Zechariah lost his voice. Mary got to sing. Mary got to sing it out. Mary got to speak it forth. Mary got to pronounce the testimony of the faithfulness of God. Zechariah's time came, but he had to pay a penalty. Zechariah is coming, but not before those who believed. There is a prophetic *word* here. Are you hearing it? You have to take hold of it. What has the Lord asked us to believe? If we can repent now, if there is any unbelief there, we know that there will be a fulfillment there with faith. Our Head walks with great faith. We are called to be disciples of her, and of that faith. That is the truth. This should be a House full of the faith of Jesus Christ given to us from these leaders.

We did a table talk last Wednesday stating “That, which you have seen. That which you have heard. That which you have received. These things do, as you have gotten them from your leaders. These things that you have seen in your leaders, these things that you have heard in your leaders, these things that you have received from your leaders in the House of God, these things do. And the God of peace will guard your heart and mind.” It's a promise.

It's a promise. It's under authority. It's undercover. It's submission, but it's life giving to yourself. It's life giving to your bones. It gives you purpose and vision that gives you a place to go. It means that you are not walking on your own journey with Jesus, but you are walking with the body of Christ with Jesus. There is a difference. You are called to be of the one body of Christ. The Bride of Christ made ready. “The Spirit and the Bride together say come.” But, if we are all on a different path, but I'm with Jesus, you are not being prepared by the Holy Spirit. You are not being prepared by the Holy Spirit “as one.”

Isaiah 54:1 ESV

“Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married says, the Lord.”

If you feel like you have been barren or you haven't raised the children of the Lord. There hasn't been an increase in the fruit of the Spirit. As you have seen, as you have heard, as you have desired, as he has given you these visions, these prophecies, and as he has given you these declarations over you, your house, your children, and your children's children. If you feel like they are just barren, God is saying, “Just believe Me.” It only takes a swift word. It only takes a swift moment. It only takes one day for justice to come swiftly. *“If the vision tarries, wait for it, it shall come.”* If you feel like that, then that means there is a great promise coming, because it always has come. It always has. It always has. *“Sing, O barren one who did not bear, break forth into singing and cry aloud.”*

I think it was Johnson that mentions they are already worshipping and crying out and shouting as if it has already happened. As if they already have all the children. As if they already have all the promises. As if they've already been in the glory, and it's already been here. That is faith, because *“faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things unseen.”* It is impossible to please God, unless you have this faith. I am already worshipping as if the promises are fulfilled and the prophecies have come to pass. The children are home. That is how this is. It's the same as Jesus crying aloud in the feast. *“Come to me. Come on. Drink and I will give you rivers of living water that will come out of your belly.”*

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It's that same action. It's that same movement. It's that same praise. It's that same shout. It's that same adoration. It's that same walk of faith, because it doesn't make sense. Why would you dance, or why would you shout as if it has already happened? Why would you rejoice unless you see the check? Why would you shout aloud unless you saw the money? That is the people I want to be with. That is my children.

For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married, says the Lord. Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes."

What is he saying? He says, "Add on. Build, build, build. Don't compromise and hold back. Don't sell yourself short for an ounce of doubt or an ounce of unbelief. Build, build, build, build." Enlarge the place of your tent. That starts in your heart. If your heart is not enlarging itself, you cannot enlarge yourself spiritually and physically. It starts in the heart. You have to expand your heart to believe more. You have to expand your heart to believe greater things. Expand your heart to believe more. Then your spirit man can enlarge and strengthen itself. Then in the physical, that will make itself manifest. That is the truth.

"Do not hold back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities."

The Lord knows that justice comes swiftly. There is an exhortation here in the story of one man who received the promise of God. We are praying as that man. We are praying as that wife. We are in a moment where we need to keep checking. What am I praying for? Am I praying for it in the faith that it will be fulfilled, and that it would be done to me according to your word? "Let it be done to me according to your word. Not according to what I can conjure up, but according to your word."

"Thus said the Lord that the barren one would be filled with children." Let this House be filled.

Let's stand and pray. If you need a prayer of repentance, we are up here. You can go one on one, or you can visit with the Lord. Your encounters one on one with the Lord are necessary for the growth of the body. Holy Spirit here we are. We say, "yes," to your word. We say, "yes," to your promises. We say, "yes," to your vision here, your dominion here, your kingdom here, your prophecy here, your declarations of faith here. We say, "yes, God," to the call to pray together and be a multitude bringing incense before God. Supplications of faith, not of our will, or not of what we want to see happen, but what you have asked us to believe for. We thank you, Father, for it. I ask that you would convict us. That you would prune us. That you would remove fear, doubt, unbelief, and any ounce of it God. That we would be the ones that can pronounce and proclaim, as the song of Mary, the excellencies of God and proclaim your name to the nations. In Jesus's name we pray, amen.