

Luke 1:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

Analysis

The neighbors' and cousins' hearing that 'the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her' and their rejoicing demonstrates proper response to God's gracious work. They rightly attributed Elisabeth's conception to divine mercy, not natural causes. The phrase 'shewed great mercy' (Greek 'emegalunen to eleos') means 'magnified His mercy'—God's compassion was displayed greatly. Their corporate rejoicing shows healthy community that celebrates God's work in individual lives. This models Christian fellowship where personal blessings become occasions for communal thanksgiving. Their recognition of God's mercy prepared the community for greater revelations about John's identity and mission.

Historical Context

In close-knit Judean communities, Elisabeth's barrenness would have been widely known, making her late-life pregnancy a public testimony to God's power. The community's rejoicing anticipated Jewish hope that God was again moving in Israel's history.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should Christian community respond when God shows mercy to individual believers?
2. What does it mean to 'magnify' or 'show great' mercy beyond ordinary kindness?
3. How can we cultivate communities that celebrate God's work in others' lives?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἤκουσαν οἱ περίοικοι καὶ οἱ συγγενεῖς αὐτῇ
And heard G3588 her neighbours And G3588 cousins her
G2532 G191 G4040 G2532 G4773 G846

ὅτι ἐμεγάλυνεν κύριος τὸ ἔλεος αὐτῇ μετ' αὐτῇ καὶ
how had shewed great the Lord G3588 G1656 her upon her And
G3754 G3170 G2962 G846 G3326 G846 G2532

συνέχαιρον αὐτῇ
they rejoiced her
G4796 G846

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:15 (Parallel theme): Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Luke 1:25 (References Lord): Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Luke 1:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

Psalms 113:9 (References Lord): He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

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