

Thankful Thursday



Thursday November 29th 2018

ZACHARIAH & ELIZABETH LUKE 1

Poor Zachariah—despite seeing an angel while on duty in the holy place of the temple, he fails to believe and for that is struck dumb until the message comes true. Imagine being Elizabeth—well on in years and pregnant with a suddenly silent husband. The bible is not short of childlessness and its pain (Sarah in Genesis 17 & Hannah in 1 Samuel 1). These passages are often used to give hope to those who long for a child and are struggling to conceive. I was struck by Luke 1 v 25 where Elizabeth shares how the pregnancy has “taken away her disgrace.” The joy of the story comes when Mary also conceives following an angel message and the two women meet and share what only they could fully understand as they have both had angel announced conception experiences.

I struggle in prayer to God for those who long to conceive and cannot. I hope it is no longer a disgrace not to have a child, but it is still an often silent pain. I do not understand why some are denied such a blessing and others have more blessings than they ever wanted!

Let us call out this advent in prayer for those who long for a child. Pray for an angel intervention and for the silence of this pain to be broken. Pray for those who really know this pain to be able to come alongside and share as they wait hopefully or grieve the loss of the baby they never had.

In the words of Zachariah’s song of praise in Luke 1 v 78 & 79 “because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven, shine on those living in the darkness and the shadow of death, and guide our feet in the path of peace.”

Love & Prayers Claire xx

