



APC Advent Devotional – December 15th, 2020

Mary and Elizabeth

Today's Scripture: Luke 1: 39-45 (NIV)

No other gospel apart from Luke details the exchange between two women - Elizabeth and Mary - sharing their joys of pregnancy. Matthew opens with a genealogy; Mark and John begin with John the Baptist. But Luke zeroes in on the details of Jesus' and John the Baptists' mothers. So why?

Mary would have been considered an adulteress for being pregnant before her marriage. Elizabeth was old and in seclusion for five months. These two women should have felt **shame, embarrassment and worry** — according to the public eye, at least. Luke saw it differently. A doctor and historian on paper, and Gentile by blood, I believe Luke must have empathized with marginalized groups especially during Jesus' time. And I'm thankful he found it significant to investigate the accounts between Mary and Elizabeth who are otherwise glossed over in the other gospels (but nothing against the other gospels!).

After receiving good news from an angel, Mary “hurried” to “greet” Elizabeth. Elizabeth returned the greeting not with doubt or fear, as her husband Zechariah did earlier in the chapter, but with joy! Finally, someone she could share her excitement with! Someone who **understood** what this pregnancy meant in the grand scheme of Israel's history! Another woman who gets me!

And a man who got it enough to write about it.

Amid an unexpected, different and challenging year, what joys and signs of hope has God provided? Who can you share it with? Who can you reach out to?

By Ros Dumlao