

# The Faith Jesus Is Always Looking For

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- I. **Jesus is always looking for someone who will believe His promises and fulfill His will on the earth.**
  - A. Mary and Elizabeth had the faith God was looking for (Luke 1:34-55).
    1. Notice Mary's response, "'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May Your word to me be fulfilled'" (Luke 1:38).
    2. Elizabeth had faith, too (Luke 1:39-45).
    3. These two were celebrating what God was about to do before anyone else on earth had a clue. No wonder God chose them!
  - B. Zachariah didn't have what God was looking for, but he eventually got the hang of it. We are all like Zachariah sometimes.
    1. Faith is always reflected in the way we talk (Luke 1:18-22, 57-66).
    2. Jesus wants us to believe with our heart and confess with our mouth (Romans 10:6-12). He marvels at unbelief (Mark 6:4-6).
- II. **Like Zachariah, Mary, and Elizabeth, we also take faith journeys. We are part of the answer for our own problems and the problems of others.**
  - A. Example of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).
    1. Like Bartimaeus, our doubts and even other people's doubts try to discourage our belief for the miracles we need.
    2. Notice Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you" (Mark 10:51)? Jesus made him say it. Jesus takes us on faith journeys with our mouth and with our actions. "Go...your faith has healed you" (Mark 10:52).
    3. Why did Jesus make Bartimaeus tell Him what he needed? Because Jesus is always looking for faith (Hebrews 11:6).
  - B. In the basic training of all Jesus' disciples, there is always our faith and His joy (Luke 10:8-11, 16-24). Notice how happy Jesus is about all of this.
  - C. Faith in Jesus' name by ordinary disciples is always what God is looking for (Luke 10:21). "Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."
  - D. Blessed are all who get to see these things (Luke 10:22-24).
- III. **As we contemplate the end of time as we know it, Jesus is busy looking for the passionate faith and love of His bride, the Church, who will triumph over Satan "...by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." This testimony is so dramatic that the Church will not "love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Rev.12:10-11).**
  - A. Before the end of the age, the Church will cry out in faith day and night, and when the Son of Man comes, He will "find faith on the earth" (Luke 18:1-8).
  - B. And we will see the Mary miracle all over again, Jesus coming to the earth in response to the faith and love of the saints.