

Mary and Elizabeth Reflection (based on the text from Luke 1:39-45 NIV)

I've been keeping a lot inside lately. Ever since I found out about this baby, I haven't really felt like I could talk to anyone. People have a hard time believing me when I tell them how it came to be - even Joseph. I understand, and I can't really hold it against them. I know how it must look from outside. I have a hard time believing it myself sometimes, that I'm carrying the child of God. I still feel a little crazy even saying that, but now I know it's true. I just wish there was someone else who believed it as much as I do. I've always felt like I could talk to Joseph before, and I know I still can, but there are some things he just doesn't understand. My faith is changing, my body is changing. I could really use some support right now, someone who would really understand.

That's why I'm going to see Elizabeth. I'm feeling a little nervous, but I've always been able to think of Elizabeth as more than just my cousin. She's been a friend, a mentor even at times. I've heard she's having a baby too, so maybe she'll be able to help me through this. Neither of us is really supposed to be having a baby right now - she's too old and I'm too young!

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Oh Elizabeth! You wouldn't believe how much I've missed you. Thank you for welcoming me here!

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

You wouldn't believe the relief I feel hearing those words. She knows! She can tell that this child is special, that I'm not just an unmarried girl who made a mistake. She even called me blessed! Truly her faith is so strong. Even her baby could tell! Elizabeth is just who I need to help me on this journey.