

# Luke 1:57-66. the Birth of John.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*The sermon highlights the significance of the birth of John and the importance of offering up our early years to God, as well as the consequences of resisting God's gracious offers.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 25:7, Psalm 71:5, Proverbs 22:6, Luke 1:57, 1 Timothy 4:12

**Topics:** "Faith And Obedience", "Dedication To God"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches on the joy of true friendship and the rewards of genuine sympathy, as seen in Elizabeth's friends who rejoiced with her at the birth of her son John, witnessing a miraculous display of God's power. Despite Zacharias' initial unbelief leading to his muteness, God used this event to strengthen the faith of others. The early dedication of John the Baptist to God from birth serves as a reminder of the importance of offering our youth to God, contrasting the regret of a sinful past with the joy of a life devoted to God from an early age.

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## Transcript

When Elizabeth's son was born, her relations and friends came to rejoice with her. Worldly people, when they are prosperous, are often envied by their friends--but pious people, when they have received any great mercy, generally have friends who really rejoice with them.

How richly were Elizabeth's friends rewarded for their sympathy! During their visit they witnessed a wonderful proof of God's power.

It appears that Elizabeth knew what the angel had told Zacharias; for she said that the child was to be called "John," or "the grace of God." The friends, by signs, asked the father what the child should be called. We see by their making signs to him that he was deaf as well as mute. He asked for a writing tablet. These tablets were often spread with wax, and written upon with a piece of steel. Zacharias wrote, "His name is John," not "he shall be called John;" but his name is John, for the angel had already given the child that name. As soon as he had written these words, his tongue was loosed; and he made that use of it for which it had first been given him--he praised God.

The angel had sentenced him to be mute until the day that the things he had told him of, would be performed, (verse 20.) That day was now come.

We perceive in this event how God can bring good out of evil--Zacharias by unbelief had become mute; but his gaining his speech again, must have helped others to believe.

His friends related the things they had seen; so that people all around wondered what sort of a man John would become. Thus many were prepared to pay attention to his preaching when he grew up. We shall hear little of the childhood of John; but we know that he was holy from his birth. How acceptable to God is the offering up of our early years! as the poet says--"A flower, when offered in the bud, is no small sacrifice."

How bitter is the remembrance of a childhood and youth of wickedness! Paul could never remember without grief that he had once persecuted God's people.

Let not those who are young imagine that if they are at length converted, it will be of no consequence having long resisted the gracious offers of God. It is delightful to be able to sing with David, "You are my trust from my youth." Those who have not turned to God until their youth was past, often think within themselves, "O that I could pass my time over again! Had I loved God sooner, what sins I would have avoided! what sorrows I should have escaped! how much good I might have done! how much glory I might have brought to God!"

It is wicked, because we know that God is willing to receive the returning prodigal, to go far from him, not intending to return until all worldly pleasures are exhausted. Yet many who would be ashamed to treat an earthly friend in this manner, act thus towards their best, their heavenly Friend.

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