



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday December 17, 2019

Jumping For Joy

Recently my pastor asked me to fill in for him for one of our mid-week Bible studies. The lesson was from Luke 1:39-45. Did you ever teach or preach on a passage and then afterwards figure out all the things you could/should have done differently? (Every Sunday, you say?!) I've spent enough time with pastors to know it is a very common feeling.

That's where I am on this passage: Making a number of notes to myself about what I should do differently next time (if there is a next time).

Here is one place I would definitely spend more time: "the babe leaped in my womb for joy." That word *leaped* is the Greek verb *skirtao*. It is used only a handful of times in the LXX and NT. It means to "leap, spring about as a sign of joy." I imagine that what the unborn John did was the equivalent of jumping for joy – except you can't really 'jump' *in utero*, but how else would you describe what he did? **Here is the first instance of John acting as the forerunner of Messiah—and he "leaped...for joy."**

Consider also the implications of this text for the pro-life position—that unborn life is worthy of protection because it is, in fact, human life. Here was one unborn human, 6 months old—24 weeks—acknowledging the significance of another unborn human, who was likely only a couple of weeks along. I'm not sure you can do this passage justice without recognizing the personhood of an unborn child. A person truly is a person no matter how small!

What kinds of things cause us to leap—jump—for joy? Could there be anything more joyful than this—that a Savior has come, to do for us what we could never do for ourselves? I've seen people jump for joy at ball games, or upon receiving a special gift, and probably at other times. But here is something truly worth jumping for: ***Messiah has come, and His name is Jesus.***

May the Lord grant you a blessed season of ministry this Christmas and may Jesus' first advent cause your heart to leap for joy. And if you literally jump out of your chair and leap for joy, I'm good with that, too.

In Jesus,

Dave Lingle
WFC Church Ambassador

PS: We'll take next week off but plan on checking in with you via this email on the 31st. Blessings!

PPS: We resume our community events in January. Thursday, January 16, we are in Oconomowoc (western Waukesha County) at Schwefel's Restaurant and on Thursday, January 23, we will be in Janesville at the Italian House. Register online [HERE](#) or by calling 888-378-7395. We'd love to have you join us for one of our "2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture" events!

