

“Joy”

Based on Luke 1:39-45 (NIV)

December 10, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Luke 1:39-40

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.

† **Mary’s “walk” was between 50 to 70 miles up into the hill country and would have lasted about 3 days.**

† **Luke, a medical doctor himself, has begun his gospel with the parallel pregnancies of 2 women - Elizabeth, pregnant with her a son, John the Baptist and Mary, Elizabeth’s cousin, pregnant with Jesus.**

Luke 1:41-42

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!

Luke 1:44 - As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

† **God moved in Elizabeth, and she let it be known.**

† **God moves in my life. How do I let it be known?**

† **Jerry Walls put it so well when he said, “In our age, as in every age, people are longing for happiness, not realizing that what they are looking for is holiness.”**

† **Joy comes through holiness, not in trying to make myself happy.**

† **God’s joy is in me!!**

† **Can’t leap for joy, than how about an alternative - Joyous Fist Bumps.**

† **Joyful Fist Bumps come whenever I experience God at work in my life.**

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† When have I physically leaped for joy?

† When have I spiritually leaped for joy?

† How am I living proof that the Christian life is joyful?

† How can I be more aware to give “Joyful Fist Bumps” (whether physically or figuratively) this week?