

Caring for the Unborn Child

After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." (Luke 1:24-25)

Historically speaking, bearing children was considered a great blessing. Women without children considered themselves cursed. Those with children praised God for this special blessing.

In the case of Elizabeth, her child-bearing years seemed gone. Her barren condition made her feel disgraced among her people. Then, however, the miraculous news came that she was pregnant. Her child would be known as John the Baptist – the forerunner of Christ.

Look carefully at the passage and you will notice that once she learned of her pregnancy Elizabeth “remained in seclusion.” Yet, her pregnancy was the source of great pride in that she no longer felt disgraced among her people.

This “seclusion” was how Elizabeth cared for her unborn child. This pregnancy was a great blessing from God, and she didn’t want to do anything to jeopardize her child’s life. As mothers before her and mothers after her, Elizabeth knew a baby was inside her womb – and it was a gift from God. She was that child’s steward, and she would now care for her baby as best she could.

Mothers today care for their children beginning with the discovery of their pregnancy. Alcohol and smoking reduce oxygen flow to a child in the womb so mothers stop those habits. Slippery ice is especially dangerous so they ask assistance in order to protect the child. Special vitamins help the baby while he or she is developing in the womb.

What takes place is no longer one life to care for, but two. That second life, developing in the womb, is extremely vulnerable. Falls, bad diets, exposure to harmful fumes all pose a very real danger to the healthy growth of the unborn child.

A pregnant woman is no longer alone. For about nine months God entrusts to the mother alone the sole task of caring for her child in the womb. Others can help. They can fix the meals, put out their cigarettes, and hold hands when the footing can be precarious. But the mother must ultimately make the decisions and take the precautions.

While some want to take the personhood out of the unborn child, that is not the way God sees it. Already at conception there is accountability for sin (Psalm 51:5). God talks about life in the womb as a person, not just tissue or not simply a “potential” person. A mother knows this, and she takes every precaution to protect her child’s health and life. After all, it is God’s gift, and she is the steward over that blessing.

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.