

“Mary’s Song of Praise”

Luke 1:46-56

December 8, 2013

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Introduction

It doesn't take much to think on the goodness of the Lord and to have one's heart to move into a mode of worship. It's not a far stretch of the imagination to bust out in a song of praise when God reveals and fulfills His promises in the lives of them that are His. His goodness and mercy should evoke a heart that rejoices; a heart that wants to sing of His praises.

In last week's lesson the angel Gabriel revealed to Mary that she was going to be personally involved in the life of the coming Messiah. After the angel departed from her she went to visit her cousin Elisabeth who was with child also. There an amazing thing happened. When the babe in Elisabeth's womb heard the voice of Mary he "leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost," (Luke 1:41). After this infilling, she blessed Mary and confirmed the "performance of those things which were told her from the Lord," (Luke 1:45).

In response, Mary's soul joins in with rejoicing!

Luke 1:46-47 "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

"My soul doth magnify the Lord." What God revealed to her through Gabriel and confirmed through Elisabeth is nothing short of AWESOME! It goes beyond the

concept of human thinking and understanding and takes you to a realm of the way He thinks and operates. It beckons one to step out into the unknown with a life and a heart of total trust. It takes you to a place of just standing in awe of the great things that He said He would do.

How else is Mary to respond except to say, **“My soul doth magnify the Lord.”** God was about a great work (as He always is). For centuries they have longed for the promise of the Messiah to be fulfilled. Generations have laid up their hopes in store for this great day. Mary’s soul can’t help it but to praise God. She knew before anyone else that God was ready to do a great kingdom shift. She is rejoicing because that time is finally at hand for the long awaited promise to come to pass and she got to be personally involved.

She was moved to **“magnify the Lord.”** We use the word **“magnify”** to mean to enlarge. We can’t make God bigger than what He already is. 1 Kings 8:27 declare, **“The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee.”** But, we can exalt and praise Him – we can lift His name up at the joy of what He is doing in the lives of His people. We can make our praise of Him grow and grow until it affects the lives of those around us. Through our worship we can help enlarge His territory and gain back spiritual ground in the lives of those who witness what God is doing in us.

When was the last time that you can honestly say, **“My soul doth magnify the Lord?”** When was the last time you felt a shift in your spirit to move into the realm of praise over the greatness of God in your life? Mary was at her cousin’s house when she busted out with this hymn of rejoicing. You can feel the spirit of God move you to worship anywhere! You don’t have to wait until Sunday morning service! Let your soul **“magnify”** Him now! That’s why she continued on and said, **“My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”**

“God my Saviour.” This is all about Him and what He is doing. Man cannot save himself. Man does not have the means to secure permanent deliverance from sin for himself. Try as he might, it just won’t work.

But, God . . .

Her people were under the tyranny of Herod and whoever else decided to put their hands in the pot of affliction over them. Worse than that, despite laws and sacrifices the tyranny of sin still permeated the world and had mankind shackled in its bonds.

But, God . . .

Mary can **“rejoice!”** There is hope for her. There is hope for her people. There is hope for the world. **“God my Saviour”** is ready to let loose His plan of deliverance once and for all! Titus 3:4-5a says, “But when the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us!” (NASB). Rejoice! **“God my Saviour”** has a plan to “save us!”

Luke 1:48-50 “For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.”

“For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.” Who are you to those who see you everyday? Are you known as mom or dad, sister or brother? Are you just that church member who sits on the end of pew five from the front? Or, are you just that neighbor down the street? Who are you to those at work or to those who see you drop off the kids at school? How do people identify you? Are you just a passing thought to most or do people **“regard”** you? Do people take notice of you and your life?

Mary, when she woke up that morning before Gabriel spoke to her, she just saw herself as Mary; nothing more, nothing less. She was just one in a group of young women who lived in her town of Nazareth. Yet, the whole time God **“regarded”** her. God had His eyes on her for something bigger and better in life and she didn’t even know it. **“He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.”** She viewed herself as nobody special but she was somebody God paid attention to.

“From henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” God is big on remembering those who submit in obedience to His will and allow themselves to be used by Him. “He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him,” (Heb. 11:6).

Jesus told His disciples one day after Mary (not today's lesson Mary) anoints Him with the oil from the alabaster box, "Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." People are going to remember her.

With the Mary of today's lesson, the one that would bear the Son of God, people are going to do more than just remember her, they "**shall call me blessed,**" she said. As stated in last week's lesson:

"No woman on the face of this earth would ever, and I do mean ever experience what Mary did. Not only in being chosen for this mission of God, but also in every aspect of life this journey would take her through from conception to death. In that she is "blessed." Women have conceived since the time of Eve, but none has ever been a virgin overshadowed by the Holy Ghost. Women have carried children in their womb, but none else has ever or will ever carry the Son of God. She is "blessed." (Wordforlifesays.com)

She will forever be linked to the greatest miracle God has ever done and considered "**blessed**" to be a part of it.

"For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name." How often has God moved in the life of one to bless and bring about "**great things**" to only have them take credit for it or attribute it to another? Mary didn't do that. She recognized that God is the "**mighty**" One and He was the One that was performing these "**great things**" in her life. 1 Samuel reminds us, "For those who honor Me I will honor," (2:30, NASB). She honored God and attributed glory to His name for His mighty hand in her life.

"Holy is his name." Mary is rolling out this beautiful hymn of what God is doing and in the middle she takes as we call it today, a praise break! At least, this is how I viewed it 😊! God has overwhelmed her in a good way and it's like she can't help but to stop and say "**Holy is his name!**"

God is unique in who He is and in the way He does things. After God delivered the children of Israel from Pharaoh and his chariots at the Red Sea, Moses and the

children of Israel sang a song, Exodus 15:1. In that song they also recognized the holiness of God. They sang, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (15:11). This is the same song of heart that Mary says in today's lesson when she pronounces "**Holy is his name!**" Psalm 99:3 declared, "Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy."

When God moves in your life; when God does the impossible, if at no other time you ought to especially recognize His holiness, His power, His uniqueness in it all and praise Him for it!

"And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." I have a lot of favorite psalms but by far one of my top favorites is Psalm 118. This is one I cling to and often go back to for times when I need encouragement. It starts off giving a brief history of the goodness of God in the life of His people because "his mercy endureth forever." Then, this beautiful psalm moves to an even more beautiful declaration of God's promises for those who put their trust in Him. There is not a verse in this Psalm that I don't like. It even ends with another, "For his mercy endureth for ever," (Ps. 118:29).

Mary recognized God's hand of mercy over "**them that fear him from generation to generation.**" Psalm 103:17 tells us, "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children." Both of these verses express the unending mercy of God.

God promised David through Nathan the prophet, speaking of his descendants, saying, "I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee," (2 Sam. 7:14-15).

Mary saw God's promise to David and that His mercy was still at work to "**them that fear him.**" Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge," (see also Pro. 9:10-11). Time did not erase the promises of God.

Though they have waited, and at times it would seem that the Messiah wasn't coming, God's mercy was working it out from **"generation to generation."**

Luke 1:51-53 "He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away."

"He hath shewed strength with his arm." When God has a plan He shows up in the full strength of His power to accomplish it. God is omnipotent. There is nothing that He can't do. There is none who can subdue or usurp His power. That's why we are encouraged to, "Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually," (1 Chron. 16:11), because God's strength is unmatched in power and authority.

In His strength He **"scattereth the proud in the imagination of their hearts . . . he put down the mighty from their seats . . . the rich he hath sent empty away."** He made them broke, busted and disgusted! Those that should have had no lack; those that should have been top of their game; those that thought they were all that and a bag of chips – LOL, yes, I went there 😊, God humbled them and removed them. Why? Because they lived in reliance of their own power and ability. They lived a life of pride; a life in opposition to God. Therefore, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble," (James 4:6, NASB).

God flips the script and He **"exalted them of low degree"** and **"He hath filled the hungry with good things . . ."** God lifts up and blesses the lowly of this world. "Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly," (Ps. 138:6). It was the lowly, the unassuming and the unexpected course that God would use to usher in the reign of the Messiah. From the choosing of a young woman from Nazareth to His lowly birth and being "laid . . . in a manger," (Lk. 2:7); all was done without pomp and circumstance to bring forth the Savior of the world.

Luke 1:54-55 "He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever."

“He hath holpen his servant Israel.” God has been a constant source for His people **“Israel.”** They were a people of promise. They were a people who would be an example to other nations (Deut. 4:6-8). They were a people through whom we would be blessed also. “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed,” (Gal. 3:8, see also Luke 1:55 (today’s lesson); Gen. 12:3). He remembered **“his mercy”** despite their failings and short-comings. God has helped Israel and stood by Israel’s side for them to be the people they were called to be.

Luke 1:56 “And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.”

Mary, we are assuming, stayed with Elisabeth up until close to the time of her giving birth to John. Gabriel came to her in the sixth month (Luke 1:26), and here we are told she **“abode with her about three months”** which would equal out to the normal time for pregnancy to be completed. Then, she **“returned to her own house.”** After which verse 57 (not in today’s lesson) tells us of the birth of John.

Conclusion

Let your soul magnify God with Mary! God is worthy to be praised! Not just in those marvelous times when He is working miracles out for you and I, but praise Him as Mary did, for His holiness. Praise Him for being the great God that He is!

Be blessed!