Luke 1:39-56

“Mary’s Magnificat!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. Last week we looked at the virgin birth/conception of Jesus.
   1.1.1. It was necessary for God to **cut off the evil** which has been carried down from the 1st father of our race.
   1.1.2. **Rom.5:12** “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and **so death spread to all men** because all sinned.”

2. **ELIZABETH’S BLESSING! (39-45)**
   2.1. **VISITING THE MOTHER OF THE BAPTIST! (39-45)**
   2.2. **Bouncing Babies! (39-41)**
   2.3. (39) Zacharias & Elizabeth lived in one of the priestly cities (Joshua 21).
   2.3.1. So Mary travels from northern Israel (Nazareth) to a country house a few miles outside of Jerusalem.
   2.4. (41) I don’t know about the “**Ten Lord’s a leapin!”** but we **do** have…
   2.4.1. As soon as she heard the greeting (i.e. “**Peace be to thee!”** with which religious Jews greeted each other)
   2.5. **Filled w/the H.S. –** As soon as Mary greeted her she was **filled w/the H.S. & spoke** as a prophetess.
   2.6. **Big Blessings! (42-45)** [to consider blessed, happy, fortunate]
   2.6.1. **Mary**, you are blessed (42)
   2.6.2. I’m blessed (43)
   2.6.3. **Baby Baptist** is blessed (44)
   2.6.4. And again **you** are blessed (45)
   2.7. (43) This scene reinforced the theme of **superiority** of **Mary’s son** to Elizabeth’s son.
   2.7.1. See, Elizabeth was in a higher social position than Mary.
   2.8. **The mother of my Lord** – Sometimes we **Protestants** can get uptight about wrong things. (i.e. Hail Mary)
   2.8.1. **What’s wrong with the Hail Mary?** – **Almost** every line is from Lk 1.

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1 Shepherd’s Notes; pg.7.
2 H.P.Liddon; Great Sermons on the Birth, Death, & Res of Christ by Smith; pg.91.
2.8.2. “Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, & blessed is thy fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now & at the hour of our death.” Amen. {mother of God isn’t the issue, it’s the last line! – i.e. praying to the dear to intercede for us}

2.9. (45) It was Mary’s faith that was notable more than anything else.
2.9.1. Yet again, she was the recipient of grace, not the source of grace!
2.9.2. Her blessedness was the blessedness of one who became a willing channel of divine blessings to others.
2.9.2.1. ”Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.”
2.9.2.2. [1] Know the divine resources personally
[2] See the human needs compassionately
[3] Become channels of God’s mighty resources so that

3. MARY’S MAGNIFICAT! (46-55)

3.1. Elizabeth touched off a secret spring in the illuminated soul of Mary
3.1.1. I pray that I can touch off a gusher in someone’s life like this 1 day!
3.1.2. And though she’s responding to Elizabeth, she immediately turns the eye of her soul upward!!!

3.2. Mary bustin out a song? Q: Wait, what does she have to sing about?
3.2.1. A pregnant unwed teen from Nazareth, engaged to marry a poor carpenter…people talking…What did Mary have to sing about?

3.3. Have you asked yourself, “What have I to sing about???”
3.3.1. Q: How did Mary do it? - Mary rose above her situation!
3.3.2. She held to Job’s counsel, “when the Lord gives (even unexpected babies)...Blessed be the name of the Lord!”
3.3.2.1. Ps: For those of you who have grown up w/the dark shadow knowing you weren’t a “planned baby” (some even have callously called it a “mistake”) rest assured, from Mary’s vantage point Jesus surely wasn’t “planned”…but wasn’t He? You know He was!!!

3.4. A pregnant teen from Nazareth, engaged to marry a poor carpenter…
Q: What did Mary have to sing about? She sang about her Lord!
3.4.1. It is both a song of present joy & a prophecy of future days.
3.4.2. Mary knew the Scriptures - Mary’s song contains at least 15 OT quotations from or allusions in her song.
3.4.2.1. Especially Psalms; & Hannah’s song that she’s known from infancy (1 Sam.2).

3 Warren Wiersbe; On Being a Servant of God; pg.4.
3.4.2.2. Mary hid God's Word in her heart! And turned it into a song!

3.4.3. The song is called “Mary’s Magnificat”, after the Latin word for Magnify.
3.4.3.1. Magnificat anima mea Dominum - My soul magnifies the Lord!
3.4.3.2. Like the Psalmist said, “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.” [Ps 34:1-3]

3.4.4. Her great desire was to magnify the Lord…NOT herself!
3.4.4.1. There are 20 references to God in her song.
3.4.4.2. She praises God 8 x’s for what He has done (see “He has”)

3.5. My soul magnifies the Lord – what a motto to grasp for life!
3.5.1. Magnify = glorifies; exalts; make large; honor highly; to declare His greatness; to make Him great in the eyes of others!
3.5.2. That we would wake up & magnify God!
3.5.3. That we would eat & drink to magnify God!
3.5.4. That we would work to magnify God!
3.5.5. That we would play sports to magnify God!
3.5.6. That we would go to school to magnify God!
3.5.7. That we would chose our career to magnify God!

3.6. Not only is Mary pregnant herself, but her song is Pregnant with Praise unto God!
3.6.1. Praise for what God did for Mary, & us, & Israel!

3.7. WHAT GOD DID FOR MARY! (47-49)
3.8. [1] GOD SAVED HER! (47)
3.8.1. Angels don’t need a Savior for they have nothing in which to be saved from. (They were created perfect beings)
3.8.2. An Angel couldn’t & wouldn’t call Jesus “my Savior”.
3.8.2.1. They would call Him “my creator, my God, my originator, my maker,” but not my Savior.
3.8.2.2. Only one who needs saving would refer to Him as Savior.
3.8.3. God my Savior - This indicates then that Mary was a sinner like all of us, & needed to trust the Lord for eternal salvation.

3.9. [2] GOD HAD CHOSEN HER! (48)
3.9.1. He has regarded her – means He was mindful of her, looked w/favor on her.
3.9.1.1. He could have chosen others…but he chose her!
3.9.1.2. As Gabriel said, “you have found favor w/God!”
3.9.1.3. And so, her chosen womb became the holy of holies for the Son of God!

3.9.2. 
**Lowly state** – She contrasts her nothingness to His magnificence!

3.9.2.1. CD I’m listening to on “Organizational Leadership” - “I’m Omni-nothing & He’s omni-everything!”

3.10. [3] **GOD WAS MIGHTY FOR HER!** (49)

3.10.1. God was mighty for her, He was working on her behalf.

3.10.2. Mary Believed God & submitted to His will.

3.10.2.1. She Believed – (1:45)

3.10.2.2. She Submitted – (1:38)

3.10.2.3. She **Committed herself to Him** - body(38) soul(46) spirit(47).

3.10.2.3.1. What an example for us to follow!

3.10.3. Q: What has God done for you? How has he shown Himself mighty on your behalf?

3.11. **WHAT GOD DID FOR US!** (50-53)

3.12. In her 2nd stanza she includes all of God’s people who fear Him from generation to generation.

3.13. God showed mercy to 3 specific groups:

3.13.1. [1] To the **Helpless** (51) [2] To the **Humble** (52) [3] To the **Hungry** (53)

3.13.2. This is God turning the world upside down or, right side up!

3.13.2.1. This is 1 of Luke’s major emphases: The Theme of **Reversal**.

3.13.2.2. The **proud** He makes to run away; the **weak** He lifts up; the **mighty** he removes from their manmade thrones; the **hungry** they shall be filled; those that think they were rich walk away realizing they were always empty!

3.13.3. The **Church** is very similar to those who rallied around David, “everyone who was in **distress**, everyone who was in **debt**, and everyone who was **discontented** gathered to him. So he became captain over them.” [Oh the grace & mercy of God!]

3.14. Q: Do you fear God? Do you have a healthy reverence for Him?

3.14.1. Turn to Him & watch His Mighty Arm at work!

3.15. Q: So who is God looking to use today?

3.16. **WHAT GOD DID FOR ISRAEL!** (54,55)

3.17. Despite Israel’s continuing to turn from God’s path, they still were His people & He’d help them fulfill His purposes.

3.17.1. God was on Israel’s side!

3.17.2. He would **remember** His mercy. He would **keep** His promises.
3.18. Note the “forever” part…He is not through with Israel.

3.19. (56) Well, Mary stayed with Elizabeth probably until John was born (or right before), then headed back home.

3.19.1. By then she was clearly pregnant. No doubt the talk was going to start. “No wonder she left in such a hurry!”

3.19.2. It was then God gave Joseph the good news & instructed him what to do. (Mt.1:18-25)

3.19.3. I bet Mary sang her song over & over to remind herself of God's Goodness! “My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name!”


3.21. “Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, & soul, & voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.”