

Luke 1:39-56**12-11-05****“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... “*One babe-a-bouncin!*”
 - 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.¹
 - 2.7.1. See, Elizabeth was in a higher social position than Mary.²
- 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.

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 dead 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.”³
- 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
 [4] God alone is **glorified**.

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 **ble**ss the LORD at all times; His **pr**aise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its **bo**ast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, **ma**gnify the LORD with me, And let us **ex**alt 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
rt 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!**”**
- 3.20. **Q:** Are you fearful? Anxious? Perplexed? Not sure about the future?
Are people talking about you? **Sing!** – Go ahead, Let your **soul**
magnify the lord! - Let your **spirit** rejoice in God your Savior!
- 3.21. “Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, & soul, & voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.”