

## Luke 1 pt 4

### Luke 1: 39-56 (NASB)

<sup>39</sup> Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

### The Magnificat

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul exalts the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

<sup>48</sup> "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;  
For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> "For the Mighty One has done great things for me;

And holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup> "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

<sup>51</sup> "He has done mighty deeds with His arm;

He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

<sup>52</sup> "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,

And has exalted those who were humble.

<sup>53</sup> "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;

And sent away the rich empty-handed.

<sup>54</sup> "He has given help to Israel His servant,

In remembrance of His mercy,

<sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup> And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

1. Luke writes to Theophilus
2. We've looked at Zechariah's encounter with Gabriel
3. 6 months later, Gabriel meets with Mary
4. She is told good news about having God's Son
  - a. Her reply: "how can this be"?
  - b. The Holy Spirit will come upon you...
  - c. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you / has complete control
    - i. Jesus is birthed in you in a greater dimension (**Courson**)
5. Mary believed and travels to see Elizabeth
6. **By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Luke is not only telling the story of Jesus' birth, but painting a picture of what believers are to look like**

## A. Expressions of faith

### I. Unity

### II. Inspiration

### III. Praise

1. I personally believe that God is showing us expressions of faith as “**special moments**” will be visiting the hungry hearts among us

### I. Unity

2. Unity is intentional
  - a. Mary leaves Nazareth and travels 80-100 miles to see Elizabeth
  - b. This is much more challenging than we realize
  - c. For a young teenage girl to travel this journey was not easy
  - d. Her first instinct is to move toward like-faith believers to do life together

- e. **Psalm 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!
- f. **Phil 2:2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose
  - i. This unity does not happen easily
  - ii. Traveling to Judah wasn't the easiest of roads
- g. There are hills and obstacles to go over, climb and endure
- h. This road is intentional and on purpose
- i. The challenges of connecting with others is not always easy, it often takes work and perseverance
  - i. It means going out of my way to spend time with others
  - ii. It means being vulnerable before others
  - iii. It means being patient with other's mistakes...
  - iv. **It' intentional, not accidental**
- j. We are commanded to be one as Jesus is one with the Father

- k. **Eph 4:3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- l. Although this may seem like a difficult task
  - i. There is no hill where God is not walking with us, even though it may not seem like it
- m. Whether we're speaking of being united or any other obstacle that we're facing...
- n. God promised to be with us every step of the way
- o. These obstacles help us realize how valuable the journey is.
- p. These challenges make the end result more meaningful
- q. If the road of **intentional fellowship** was easy and convenient, then
  - i. we wouldn't grow spiritual muscles
  - ii. We wouldn't learn the heart of Jesus of putting others first

- iii. Without genuine fellowship, we will not see what the disciples experienced in Acts 2
- r. Although Mary climbed the hills of Judah carrying the seed, that seed was actually carrying her.
- s. He would one day climb up another hill called Calvary and carry a cross and pay the price of salvation for Mary, and all of humanity
- t. His purpose was more than salvation, it was unity of man to God and believers to each other
- u. Unity is an expression of faith

## **II. Another expression of faith is inspiration**

1. When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb and Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit
  - a. Not only did Mary need Elizabeth and encouragement, but Elizabeth also needed Mary and the Christ in her

- b. There is mutual need and benefit in the body as our physical bodies all have different parts, so the body of Christ is very different, but also necessary
- 2. Elizabeth and Mary are much like Moses and Joshua
  - a. Moses needed Joshua, and Joshua needed Moses
- 3. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and her baby leaped in her womb
  - a. Perhaps it was the encouragement and increased awareness of God's presence that caused Elizabeth to be filled with the Holy Spirit
  - b. One thing is certain, that God's Hand was on John as a unique baby who would have the most important / significant responsibility of preparing the way for Jesus
  - c. That is, the Spirit of God would exercise a unique control on this man from the time he is in his mother's womb until he completes his ministry as a grown man (**Piper**)
  - d. **One evidence of her being filled was the inspiration of blessings she spoke**

e. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb

i. One of the ways we know we have genuine fellowship according to God's heart is to

1. Be genuinely happy when God does something in another and we're inspired to bless them

f. Elizabeth is also confirming what happened to Mary without Mary saying anything

i. God uses fellow believers to be a source of encouragement and confirmation of what God is doing in our lives

ii. Experiences and calling into ministry must be confirmed by the body of Christ

iii. As Ananias was instructed by God to confirm to Paul that experience on the road to Damascus

4. **Vs. 45** And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."



- a. Elizabeth was inspired to instruct Mary and us, that Mary's **faith** is the foundation that the promises will be fulfilled
- b. **The emphasis is on believing God**
  - i. The journey with God begins, and continues by faith.
  - ii. There will come a day when we will see Him face to face

**1. For now, the just shall live by faith**

- c. Elizabeth believed God
  - i. Mary Believed God & submitted to His will.
    - 1. **She Believed** – (1:45)
    - 2. **She Submitted** – (1:38)
    - 3. **She Committed herself to Him - body(38) soul(46) spirit(47).**
- d. A great example for us to follow! (**Bell**)

**5. How does that help us today?**

**6. When you sense a prompting on the inside and know it's not you**

- a. **To obey in something**
- b. **To repent of something**
  - i. **Follow that prompting**

- ii. **Once you've followed that internal voice, begin by praising God and focusing on Him**

**7. Make Him bigger than everything and anything else**

**III. A 3rd expression of faith is Praise**

1. Judah means praise
2. From a unified heart comes the Magnificat of Mary
  - a. Latin ...Magnificat, anima, mea Dominum."
    - i. **"My soul magnifies the Lord."**
3. We know that her relationship with God is in the right place
  - a. It's evidenced by her relationship with others
  - b. You cannot have one without the other
4. **From that firm foundation is a natural and powerful praise**
5. **There was no doubting in Mary's mind about God's goodness**

6. **As a result, she begins to see Him bigger and stronger than anything and everything**

a. **My soul magnifies the Lord**

i. My mind & will magnifies the Lord

ii. That's why we begin service by praising God

iii. To see God as bigger than every obstacle

b. **My spirit has rejoiced in God my savior**

i. The deepest part of who I am is my spirit

ii. I rejoice in God from there

7. Mary's song has at least 15 O.T references meaning she was a student who memorized scripture

a. Mary didn't just decide one day to be united with believers and have a united heart of worship toward God

i. She wasn't relying on her emotions

- ii. She relied on the Holy Spirit who illuminates the Word of God to hungry hearts

8. **This is our role as believers in our normal everyday lives**

- a. Memorize and devour the Word of God relying on God's Spirit
- b. There is no other way to live a consistent victorious life
  - i. What you put into your heart will come out during challenging times
  - ii. **Psalm 119:11** I've hidden your Word in my heart...

9. There are 20 references to God in her song.

- a. She praises God 8 x's for what He has done (see "He has")  
(**Cole**)
- b. A pregnant unwed teen from Nazareth, engaged to marry a poor carpenter... people talking... what did Mary have to sing about? (**Cole**)
- c. These are not the greatest circumstances to worship in

10. If she looked at her circumstances, she probably would not worship

11. **Mary made a decision to look to Him who is bigger than her circumstance**

12. **She begins by looking at God**

a. **His Salvation**

b. **His Mercy**

c. **His Help**

13. **GOD SAVED HER! (47)**

a. Only one who needs saving would refer to Him as **Savior**.

b. God my Savior - ... indicates then that Mary was **a sinner** like all of us, & needed to trust the Lord for eternal salvation (**Bell**)

i. Our greatest gift from God is our salvation

ii. If nothing else was done, saving us from hell and eternal punishment was enough

iii. Mary recognizes that God's hand is directly on her life

- iv. He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed
  - 1. Mary, they won't call you blessed right now
  - 2. That's OK
  - 3. By magnifying the Lord, I can see beyond right now
- v. "He who is mighty has done great things for me & Holy is His Name"
- vi. She viewed God as being Mighty for her
- vii. He was working on her behalf
  - 1. That God was mindful of her and showed favor
  - 2. Although in the natural, the timing couldn't be worse
  - 3. The same is available for all of us

#### 14. **God shows mercy**

- a. God showed mercy to 3 specific groups:
  - i. To the Helpless(51)
  - ii. To the Humble(52)
  - iii. To the Hungry(53)

- iv. She recognizes God's mercy on her
  - v. How many times did she deserve punishment and God was patient?
  - vi. How many times did I deserve punishment but God was merciful?
- b. It would be good for us to approach God from that perspective
- i. Helpless
  - ii. Humble
  - iii. Hungry
- c. God [has a way of] turning the world upside down or, **right side up!**
- i. The **proud** He makes to run away; the **weak** He lifts up;
  - ii. the **mighty** he removes from their thrones;
  - iii. the **hungry** they shall be filled;
  - iv. Those that think they were **rich** walk away realizing they were always empty! (**Bell**)

## 15. **God helped His servant Israel**

- a. **Mary's prayer was not just about herself**
  - i. **She recognizes and has a heart for her nation**
- b. Despite Israel's continuing to turn from God's path, they still were His people & He'd help them fulfill His purposes.
  - i. God is on Israel's side!

- c. God was not going to send them another Moses, David...
  - i. Not another prophet to instruct them
  
- d. God is arriving on the scene personally to do more than save
  - i. He's here to reveal the Father to us
  - ii. To show God's heart toward His people
  - iii. It's more than a help to set them free from Rome
  - iv. This will be beyond their wildest expectations
  - v. God will now take up residence in each believer
  - vi. Christ in you, the hope of Glory
  - vii. It's much more than the occasional help when I'm in trouble
    - 1. He is living inside and doing the work Himself

16. Mary stays with Elizabeth 3 months and returns home

- i. Mary, you are now 3 months pregnant, what will you do?
- ii. I have no idea, but God who began a good work...



- iii. It was then God gave Joseph the good news & instructed him what to do. (Mt.1:18-25)
  - iv. Mary [probably] **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!**"
- b. Q: Are you fearful? Anxious? Perplexed? Not sure about the future? Are people talking about you? **Sing!** ...Let your **soul** magnify the lord! - Let your **spirit** rejoice in God your Savior! **(Bell)**
- c. Trust in the Lord with all your heart...