

The Magnificat: Giving Thanks For What Matters Most

Luke 1:46–55

Michael McNally, Nov 21, 2020

1) Introduction.

- a) In a world facing enormous stress-- stop and take time to be thankful to God for every good thing in your life.
- b) The greatest blessing we have is the gift of Jesus Christ -- commemorated by many churches in Advent, which starts Nov 29.
- c) We have the first recorded celebration of the coming of Jesus in the Magnificat, the song of Mary in Luke 1:46–55

2) Preceding Context

- a) The birth of John the Baptist had been foretold to Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. Luke 1:5-25. John "prepares the way of the Lord" first with his conception, later with his preaching. (Mark 1:3-4)
- b) In 1:26-36 the angel Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary. Critically, she accepts. ***Be like Mary. Welcome Christ everyday as Lord and be a God-bearer.***
- c) The OT testament often has songs written to commemorate critical turning points in history. (1 Samuel 2.) What's radical is: *world-history and salvation pivots on what's happening in her personal life!* The Magnificat is a hymn of thanksgiving.

3) The **Sight of God**

- a) Luke 1:46-47. Magnifying God, seeing him clearly, takes you past fear into joy!
- b) Luke 1:48. Everything starts with God seeing, electing, choose us by grace in love. 1 John 4:19. Gal 4:9. John 17:3. Phil 3:8-9.
- c) God "seeing" us is him drawing us into an interpersonal relationship -- and that relationship a real power.
 - i) The relationships within the Trinity -- the love of Father to Son, Son to Father, the out-pouring Holy Spirit -- those relationships are part of what the One God truly is.
 - ii) When we enter such a relationship, that relationship eternally redefines who and what we are! Sons of God, daughters of God eternally.
- d) Luke 1:48. Mary's "lowly estate". She had a sin-nature like all humans: Jesus came to take on human nature and deal with our sin problem. She received him as a "doule" -- a bond servant or slave, and so she becomes our model.

4) The **Strength of God**

- a) Luke 1:49 The "mighty thing" Jesus did in the incarnation become fully man, while remainfully God. It is the first step in his great journey (Phil 2:5-11). See the diagram below.

- b) The Virgin Birth fulfills prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) but also preaches theology. Because Jesus bridged God and Man we become new creations (2 Cor 5:17); if you remember nothing else, remember who Jesus is and what he did (1 Cor 2:2).
- c) Luke 1:50 The birth & life of JC accomplishes God's mercy. Rom 3:25-26. Putting us beyond condemnation Rom 8:1. Steadfast for all generations.
- d) Luke 1:51-52 No human resources could accomplish salvation. Humility- nothing to add; confidence - nothing needed from us. Man's way to righteousness doesn't work (Jer 17:9). Man (Joseph) added nothing to Jesus - all from God. John 1:13. 1 Cor. 1:27-29

5) The **Covenant Faithfulness of God**

- a) God is faithful to meet our needs. Luke 1:53. How does he feed us? John 6:55-58. We feast on Christ like Mary, by believing and receiving. John 1:12. The feast gives abundant spiritual blessings, Eph 1:3, 3:8.
- b) God keeps his covenants, he fulfills the ancient covenant promises to Israel and Abraham, through Jesus. Luke 1:54-55.

6) Conclusion

- a) Give thanks for God's sight, power, and covenant faithfulness.
- b) ***Be like Mary. Welcome Christ every day as Lord and be a God-bearer***

Extra: Check out *Mary Did You Know*, sung acapella by the Pentatonix:

<https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

The Journey of the Son of God

