

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-56 Sunday AM, June 30, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 1:39-56 (NASB95) 39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." 46 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. 49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. 50 "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. 51 "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. 52 "He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. 53 "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed. 54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever." 56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

Mary and Elizabeth. Both carried an impossible child, and both found out in supernatural ways—a visit from an angel. Mary received the visit herself, and Elizabeth heard from her husband. While Zacharias and Elizabeth were older, their miracle baby came about in the natural way, while Mary's baby came apart from Joseph. Those who heard of these miracles would talk— incredulous with Elizabeth but perhaps scandalous assumptions when talking about Mary. However, as Mary hurried to her cousin Elizabeth to speak of their common circumstances, both women looked to God and rejoiced! Elizabeth not only did not accuse Mary of impropriety, she blessed her. Without jealousy, she humbly yields her own miraculous birth to acknowledge the fame of a greater birth—much like her son would later do. "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?" The mother of My Lord! The Anointed One, the Christ, the Promised One from God, the Messiah! Notice the focus of her praise—not on Mary's being chosen to carry the Messiah, but on Mary's faith in God's Word. 45 "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." God speaks, it WILL take place. This is Mary's disposition and THIS is the disposition of those who fear the Lord. And what does that fear include? Seeing the greatness of God so that the only right response would be to trust His Word. This was the perspective of the angel Gabriel who came from the presence of God Himself. Do you remember His words from God? His message concluded with the words 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." Praise our great God by focusing not on YOUR great faith and faithfulness, but on His trustworthy word.

*Hymn #224 (Red): I Know Whom I Have Believed

And what does Mary do with this blessing from Elizabeth? She responds vertically with praise—"My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; Her first thoughts were not of herself, but of her great God. This fits with what the youth worked on in John Piper's, *Don't Waste Your Life*—An awareness of blessing did not make her focus on making much of herself, but making much of the One who begraced her. She acknowledges that His tender mercies come to those who fear Him. This is not just for her, but His response to generation after generation of those who fear Him. That means there is tender mercy and gracious gifts for you if you fear Him—treat Him as holy by responding to His reality rather than fitting Him into yours. How do you do this? By speaking to yourself God's truth when your soul looks somewhere other than to God for provision and justice. Listen as this beautiful hymn does this as it describes the greatness of God. Who is He? Verse 4--He looks! And 10, 000's of angels rejoice—and myriads wait for His word; He speaks! And eternity, filled with His voice, Re-echoes the praise of the Lord.—THIS is the God in whom Mary exalts!

*Hymn #277 (Red): O Thou, in Whose Presence *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Scripture: Psalm 145 (NASB95) A Psalm of Praise, of David.

1 I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. 6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness. 7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, And Your godly ones shall bless You. 11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power; 12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. 14 The LORD sustains all who fall And raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. 17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds. 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. 20 The LORD keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

Offering: *Doxology:

David says he will bless God's name forever and declare His mighty acts. 3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable. This is not a onetime act, but a way of life. 2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. This is what ALL do who fear the Lord. David continues, 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. And THIS is what we hear Mary doing hundreds of years later. How about you? Grab your wandering attention and meditate on the glorious splendor of God's majesty and on His wonderful works.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Indescribable

You may be seated. God has blessed His people and faithfully cared for them. 54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever." Are you His people? You can be—but you must yield to His word—His purpose. Like Mary, will you say, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word"? Those who fear the Lord in this way will know the love of God for them in Christ. As Pastor prepares to preach, worship God with Mary for His lovingkindness to us in Christ.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): When Love Came Down

Message: "Magnificat" Luke 1:46-56 *Hymn #106: Praise Him! Praise Him! *Prayer