

## The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said: "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. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."

The angel of the Lord having told Mary that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Highest would overshadow her; and then, he pointed out the following, saying, therefore, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. And then after that glorious announcement he informed her that her relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. And he then ended his message with these words of renown, "For with God nothing will be impossible." We read next that Mary went to visit Elizabeth.

It is here that Scripture tells us that as Mary entered the home of Zacharias and sounded her greeting to her cousin, that the baby in the womb of Elizabeth leaped within her and Elizabeth being filled with the Holy Spirit spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" And then humbly asked, "why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" We can only assume that she had already heard the news of Mary's conception of the promised King of Israel for we then read, ". . . for indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." One must be aware that Elizabeth at this time is speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit I marvel each time I read this, I marvel for I am amazed that our God can reveal to an infant in the womb a message of hope and comfort, causing such a little one to leap for joy.

And permit me to add a side note here, that I grieve that in this day, mothers will willingly abort such infants in their womb, that doctors will perform such a hideous murderous act, and that our government would approve of such dastardly deeds.

And one other thing I would also point out this morning, as it were another side note, you will find here good evidence that infants are to be received into the fellowship of our Lord's church, for indeed if our God can communicate to an infant in the womb, and if our Lord has taught us that "of such is the kingdom of heaven" how dare we refuse them membership on our baptized rolls? That's as I said are just side notes, but I believe are proper to be noted, and I shall now return to the message before us.

Now after Elizabeth pronounces Mary blessed of God for believing that there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord, Mary herself bursts out in praise to God. This portion of Scripture throughout the history of the church has been called "The Song of Mary".

Calvin writes that "there are three clauses in this song. He points out that first, Mary offers solemn thanksgiving for that mercy of God which she had experienced in her own person. And then secondly, she celebrates in general terms God's power and judgments. And thirdly, she applies these to the matter in hand, treating of the redemption formerly promised, and now granted to the church." Wording them just a bit differently I purpose to consider this passage before us this morning under those three headings.

A. Mary's personal thanksgiving and praise to God for His merciful kindness which she has experienced in her own person

*"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."*

### 1. My soul magnifies the Lord

- a. It is only by such praise that God can be magnified, or made great
- b. For nothing can be added to God, for He is infinite and eternal - -
- c. Therefore the only way we can magnify the Lord is to:
  - (1) Proclaim or speak of His greatness
  - (2) And celebrate those acts in which he has manifested his greatness.
- d. But be mindful Scripture tells us that "it is good to praise the Lord" and to make know His mighty acts.

2. Calvin writes that when *soul* and *spirit* are employed together they denote chiefly two faculties of man, his understanding and his affections
  - a. In other words our worship should include both our intellect and our affections
  - b. With the mind - one thinks upon the greatness, glory and power of Almighty God
  - c. With your heart - one should respond with thankfulness, love and devotion
3. Mary's praise is directed to God her **Savior**
  - a. She is not one who was immaculately conceived
  - b. She was a sinner in need of a Savior
  - c. She didn't need to be because God has used sinners to bring about His salvation
  - d. She rejoices thus with all the saints of God
  - e. We thereby have great cause for rejoicing
4. He has regarded the lowly estate of His handmaiden - servant/slave
  - a. God did not choose a maid of high standing
  - b. Was the daughter of King David
    - (1) But that kingdom had long ago gone into disrepair
    - (2) Carried off into captivity not be have been restored to its former glory
    - (3) Now a kingdom in the ruins of great humility
  - c. That because of this special honor all generations would call her blessed.
5. No doubt some of the words of the angel's announcement fill her mind at this time
  - a. You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus.
  - b. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest;
  - c. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.
  - d. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
  - e. Of His kingdom there will be no end
  - f. That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.
6. She marveled at the mercy of the Mighty God toward her and here referred to herself as nothing more than the "handmaiden" that is the lowly "servant girl" of the Lord

*Luke 1:49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name*

- a. This song is filled with praises to Him who is mighty
- b. This song is filled with humility as she calls herself "the handmaiden of the Lord"
- c. In the Greek the word for a "female slave".
- d. Her song is about what God has done and will do

In closing I want to observe the following

First of all, this recording of her prayer is by the power of the Holy Spirit for Mary could not have remembered word for word what she had spoken some 30 plus years earlier.

I think it is proper to acknowledge that this remembrance is given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit

Let us then consider some of the reasons God has recorded her prayer for us

First that Mary is blessed by God, that is, a recipient of the blessing of Almighty God

That she is not blessed in and of herself.

That she acknowledges herself a sinner in need of a Savior.

Therefore that we might refute the error of those who refer to her as the "Queen of heaven"

That we might refute the error of those who pray to her as a "mediatrix" and "co-redemptrix"

Let us then extol in her nothing more than the kindness of God.

Let us then, as sinners, rejoice and simply acknowledge with her, God as our Savior and Redeemer.