

Luke 1:46–55

Praise for the Promise

I. FOCUS IS PRAISE –

a. To God

b. In Joy

c. For Salvation –

Romans 11:33-36

Mary is praising God for the gift that her Son will be, is... The promise is real, though nothing has yet happened, Jesus is not yet born. Still faith in the promise provokes praise FOR the promise. The idea that we can somehow praise God without focusing on Him is ludicrous, but seems to be the rage in our culture. So much of what passes for worship is self-centered drivel, and self-aggrandizing offensiveness. Mary praises God and the focus of her song is clearly God and

His faithfulness to the promises He made and fulfills.

II. PROPERLY POSITIONED –

a. I am Lowly

b. God has had mercy

c. He has done great things for me

d. He is Mighty

e. I have been lifted up by the mercy of God –

Isaiah 41.11-14

Here is the heart of the praise, understanding who God is and who we are apart from Him. All praise begins in this attitude, without it praise is not only impossible, the attempt is blasphemy! There is nothing either of selfish pride or false humility; the pride is Godward, proud of the God we serve, of His goodness of His mercy and grace,

and the humility is real as well. There is an innate confession of her littleness, her awareness of the great condescension of God to bless her in this way. Notice also the real position she maintains in regards to the works of God in general. This blessing, so far as she knows has destroyed her life. It has broken her engagement, ruined her reputation, harmed her family and wrecked all of her prospects... still she confesses that it is an opportunity for praise. It is a chance for her to worship for God has done and IS STILL DOING great things!

III. HIS WORKS ARE CENTRAL –

a. He Is Holy

b. His Mercy is abundant upon those who fear Him

c. Timeless and constant - He has always been and always will be consistent

d. His might is total –

Psalm 96;
Psalm 145.1-7

He is the focus, what He does is praised, His name is greatly to be praised. He does what only He can do, and He does all things well. His very nature is expressed in His works and for us to be able to see His nature aright, we must see the works in the right light. But further, it is also needful for us to have a baseline understanding of His nature to help us rightly interpret His works. They function together, and the knowledge of the Holy One that we need comes to us by way of His own self-revelation through His word. But now, He is revealing Himself even more through the person of His Son.

IV. HE SETS ALL THINGS TO RIGHT –

- a. He has scattered the proud
- b. He has put down the mighty
- c. He has exalted the lowly

- d. Filled the hungry with good things
- e. Sent the rich away empty - the expectation of the ministry of the promised One begins to take form here. He will work the work of the Father, He will do what is needful, He will do that which He determines proper, what He deems right, and none can stay His hand nor ask Him what He has done -

Daniel 4:34-35

but the expression of this faithfulness which is being uttered is forward looking. There is the expectation of the continuance of all that He has done as the messiah emerges onto the stage. What God has done in the past gives us indication of what He will do again in many things. Over and over we see the way that God blows up the orders of man, the way we think things should be done... He does things differently, and He does things as He sees fit.

V. HIS WORKS EXPRESS HIS FAITHFULNESS

- a. His relationship with Israel whom He chose to be His servant
- b. His mercy is the motive
- c. His promise is the security
- d. His Word stands still today
- e. The child in her womb is the manifest expression of that promise.

All of this praise finds its anchor in this simple truth. What God promises, God delivers. There is never a time when we need doubt this truth. God will do all that He promised, in the fullness of His time, and the delays we think we see are just about the now and not yet of God's plan, He will fulfill all that He has promised WHEN it is time. We are never at liberty to doubt His faithfulness, never free to deny His promise,

never permitted to refuse to trust. He does all that He does because He has said He will do it, this is especially important for us to remember because we are called to believe God's promise before we can see any of His working it out. The whole basis of our salvation is founded on Faith, that God will do all He promised, that He can be trusted. By faith we understand the true shape of the world...

Hebrews 11.1-3,

by faith we enter into the basis of our relationship with God,

**Hebrews 11.6,
Romans 10.9-10.**

Consider that Mary had to operate on the same faith even in this song of praise. She looked back over history and saw the works of God that had been taught to her all of her life, she saw that working and had to trust that the accounts were true, that they were rightly understood, and then

she had to trust that God would still act in the same way, that He would still be the same God. It is the same thing we have to do. We **MUST** see that truth in all our dealings with God, that His promise is the foundation and security of all we have been given in Christ!