

Luke 1:46–55

46 And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.

50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.

54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

Mary’s Worship **Luke 1:46-55**

INTRO:

This poem has a context. Mary spoke these words when she had gone to visit Elizabeth, who was expecting John the Baptizer. When Elizabeth hears Mary’s greeting the baby John jumps in her womb. We read in **verses 41-45**, ***“And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.’”***

I. Mary’s Personal Response (v. 46-50)

II. Things God Did for His People (v. 51-55)

I. Mary’s Personal Response (v. 46-50)

Luke 1:46-50 ***“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.”

A. Mary's words echo in many ways Hannah's prayer in **1 Samuel 2:1-10**. Hannah prayed her poem after taking little Samuel and leaving him to serve Yahweh in Shiloh. Like Hannah, Mary experienced a miracle. God placed her in a unique position. She was to miraculously give birth to the God/Man the long awaited Messiah. In one sense every girl in Israel wanted to be in Mary's position. In another sense, Mary faced a potentially terrifying situation. Remember God had to send an angel to Joseph so he would take Mary and protect her virginity until she delivered Jesus.

B. Mary had to trust God in all of this. Listen to how she did trust and rejoice in all that Gods promised.

“And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.’”

Mary wanted to magnify God to glorify Him. Her rejoicing is in parallel to her magnifying God. Paul said something very similar in his letter to the Philippians.

Philippians 1:20 ***“According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”***

C. Why did this praise jump to Mary's lips?

“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”

There are three reasons here.

1. She glorified God because He knew her and He gave her the unspeakable privilege to be the Messiah's mother. While much of the thinking about Mary in other religions is not found in the Bible, we need to remember she was blessed beyond anyone else. We should honor her for the blessings God did in her and through her.

2. She also glorified God ***“For He is mighty and He has done great things for me.”***The Lord did miraculous things for Mary. God is holy, and because of His holiness Christ had to be born and to die.

3. Not only did Mary glorify God because of His power, blessing, and holiness, she glorified Him because of His love and mercy.

“And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation”

We must always remember God's holiness and His mercy and love. This mercy and love was for Mary and for all generations.

II. Things God Did for His People (v. 51-55)

Luke 1:51-55 *“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.”*

A. At **verse 51**, Mary’s worship goes beyond the stuff God specifically did for her to how God blessed His people through the ages.

“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.”

First, God always showed Himself mighty on the behalf of His people. We can think of many examples. One is how God brought down the walls of Jericho when Israel came into the land. God also has brought down rulers who sought to exalt themselves against God (i.e. the king of Assyria).

B. ***“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.”***

Mary rehearsed God’s faithful provision and His lack of partiality for the rich. God always provided and especially for those who are His covenant people. Don’t forget the manna.

C. Finally, Mary glorified God for revealing Himself to His people.

“As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

Our God is the only true and living God and He is not silent. He has given us a book so we can know what He has said.

What do we take from this?

1. Why is Mary’ Worship Poem here? First, it shows us how Mary was ready to trust God even in a difficult situation. Second, it gives us a glance into the soul of this godly woman who desired above all things to glorify God.

2. Worship is for God. Our true and living God is the audience of our worship. We benefit from but we do not worship to feel good. We worship the Lord because God deserves it.

3. When we worship we need to think beyond ourselves to Who God always has been and what He has done for His people. Self-centered worship does not glorify God nor does it remind us how big and how faithful God has been.

4. We need to think of our Lord in this way often. If we constantly think of Him in this way, it is easier to trust Him the hard spots on the road.

Hymn #4 *How Great Thou Art*