

# The Song of Mary – Luke 1:46-55

**Introduction** – Last week we considered the significance of the doctrine of the Virgin Birth. Following up on that, this week we consider Mary's own testimony of her salvation and the Savior of the world she was carrying in her womb. Like Mary, there is much for us to live out in practical theology as a result of the Incarnation. Let us join with her delight: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior."*

**The Magnificat** – The Scriptures do not tell us how old Mary was, but it would be typical for a young woman to be around fourteen years old when she would be betrothed. Mary, at that age, was saturated in the Word (the Old Testament, mind you) which is obvious if you consider the multitude and variety of references she is relying on as she composes this song. Not only was she saturated; at this young age she had a deep and mature love for her God. Her soul magnified the Lord. She had faith, believing there would be a fulfillment of these things told her from the Lord (1:45). She is one who knew God does great things through those who entrust the journey with Him to His care. Those are the ones who reply, *"Let it be to me according to your word"* (1:38). Unbelief would have said, "Wait!" and fear would never sing like this before such hopes were accomplished. But there is a song to be sung now for promised mercy to come. Verse by verse, we can consider this kind of faith.

**Faith that Rejoices** (vv46-47) – She is a Psalm-singer, conflating Psalm 34:1-4 and 35:9, obeying the command of 37:4 and doing so with faith that *"He will give you the desires of your heart."* *"What a religion is ours, in which delight becomes a duty, in which to be happy is to be obedient to a command!"* (Spurgeon). But remember: God only commands what He gives (Gal 5:22). And what is it to magnify the Lord? How can He be made greater than He is? Yet her soul desires to make God greater in the thoughts of Elizabeth and the rest of the world; her soul is not satisfied until she has seen God made greater in our hearts.

**Humility that Rejoices** (v48) - Mary does not need to think highly of herself; she doesn't teach us that we need to "love ourselves more." In utter humility she is blown away that God would choose her. She will be called "blessed" and already has (1:28, 45), but this is because of the Lord's incredible mercy to her. Likewise, none of us needs to think more highly of ourselves. Rather, simply realize and reflect on how blessed you are that God would send His Son to die for you. Do you realize that all generations will look at you, if you are in Christ, and they will call you blessed – blessed eternally and beyond measure?

**Grace and Holiness Together** (v49) – *"Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits – the God of our salvation"* (Psalm 68:19, also 71:19). But this saving grace does not defile His holiness. His eternal righteousness has not been violated; sin must be punished and was in the Person of our glorious Substitute. Righteousness and peace have kissed in Jesus. *"Holy is His name"* therefore does not distance us from God. Those wounded, holy hands are lifted up to the Father, interceding on our behalf (Rom 8:34). It is by that holy name that He swore to Abraham His promises and by such that *"we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us"* (Heb 6:18-20). His holiness is the anchor of the grace which we enjoy.

**Steadfast Mercy** (50) – Many times we have noted that the promises of the covenant pass on from generation to generation (Psalm 103:17) as evidence to parents to believe the promises for their children as they raise them. But God's steadfast mercy never ends for you as well. His mercies are new every morning (Lam 3:22-23). He delights in mercy (Mic 7:18). Have you backslidden? Has your joy and delight in the Lord soured or grown stale? God will have mercy on you though you have wandered. He seeks you even now. You who have believed on Him, believe upon Him again.

**Sweet Divine Sovereignty** (vv51-53) – What is the way of salvation? It is not the way of the proud, those who trust in themselves, in their riches, their reputation, their power. *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and compassion on those on whom I will have compassion"* says the Lord. These verses sing of His distinguishing, discriminating grace. This is a hard doctrine until we humble ourselves, remembering God is God and we are not. This is a difficult doctrine until we remember that if it depended at all on us, something in us, or something we must do, then we would forever be lost. He is pleased to give His mercy to those that fear Him, to the lowly of heart, trembling at His Word (Isaiah 66:2).

**Faith in God's Faithfulness** (vv54-55) – He promised Abraham that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (Gen 12:3) and Mary sings that God is good to His Word. We can have faith in God's faithfulness. Which means that we can have faith this Christmas that He continues to be faithful – to you and to the world, for He is faithful to His promises. He has come to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

**Mary's Song** – is really the first Christmas hymn, full of grace and truth. Her delight was not simply that a Savior was to be born, but that he was to be born of her. By faith, we may sing the same song. While it is true that Christ on Calvary takes away the sin of His people, unless the Lord Jesus has been formed in our hearts, there is no hope of glory. *"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Col 1:27). Mary did not just sing of Christ for all, but Christ for me. And so may we. Merry Christmas.