

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

Mary's Song

Luke 1:46-55

Sunday, December 16, 2018

1. MARY'S FAITH LEADS HER TO GLORIFY GOD (v. 46-50)

- Her attitude has transformed from RESOLVED obedience to JOYFUL praise.
- Mary's song is an expression of FAITH.
- She glorifies God because He has looked on her HUMBLE ESTATE and HONORED her.
- Mary is both UNIQUE and TYPICAL of everyone who BELIEVES in Jesus.

2. MARY SEES THE GREAT REVERSAL OF ALL THINGS IN THE GOSPEL (v. 51-55)

- Mary is so CONFIDENT of the blessings to come with the Savior that she sings of the promises of God as already having been FULFILLED.
- God helps the helpless, GIVES GOOD THINGS to those who have nothing, and EXALTS the humble.
- Jesus's life, death, and resurrection is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that through his seed, all the nations will be BLESSED.

Mary responds to Elizabeth's prophetic blessings by joyfully praising God because, through the Savior to be born to her, He is fulfilling His promises to Abraham and to Israel, exalting the humble, reversing the Fall, turning the world right-side-up, and blessing all nations.

INTRODUCTION

- The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ STRAINS belief.
- The birth of Jesus, the Son of God is the TIPPING POINT of history.

CONTEXT

- Gabriel announces the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, but Zechariah does NOT BELIEVE him.
- Gabriel announces the really miraculous birth of Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, and Mary BELIEVES him.
- Mary visits Elizabeth, who pronounces 3 BLESSINGS on Mary.
- Mary's song is a RESPONSE to Elizabeth's pronouncement of blessings upon her.

Things to think about . . .

1. Do your Christmas traditions serve and honor God or are they a distraction? What, if anything, would you like to change to make it more Christ centered?
2. Do you really believe that Jesus is the Messiah and your Savior? Explain how that matters in your hour by hour existence. How does it affect your values, goals, and desires? Does it produce exuberant joy in you?
3. What are the inner longings of your heart? Are you seeking to satisfy them with things, success, power, hobbies, etc. or in Jesus? How can you make Jesus your source of joy?
4. Make a couple of lists comparing the values of this world and the values of the Gospel. Now evaluate your priorities and see how you can align your life with the Gospel.
5. Day to day, what is the source of your hope? Where do the promises of God fit in?