

Echoes of Joy: Finding Our Song in Mary's Song

November 17, 2024 • Nick Braitto

The Setting: (39-45)

The Song: (46-55)

Rejoice that God is not only _____, but _____. (46-49)

Rejoice that God's redemptive work is not only _____,
but _____. (50-53)

Rejoice that God's promises are not only _____, but _____. (54-55)

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on 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 for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

⁵¹ *He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;*

⁵² *he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;*

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 offspring forever.”*

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What is one of your favorite Christmas songs and what makes it special to you?

Read & Discuss: Luke 1:39-56

1. Thinking back to Mary's encounter with the angel when she was told she would become pregnant with Jesus (*Luke 1:26-38*), how might Mary have felt as she journeyed to see Elizabeth (v. 39)? How would Mary have been encouraged by Elizabeth's greeting (vv. 41-45)?
2. **Reread Luke 1:45.** In your experience, how does believing in the promises of God lead to us being "blessed"? What happens when we begin to doubt the promises of God?
3. What does it mean for your soul to "magnify the Lord" (v. 46) or for your "spirit to rejoice in God" (v. 47)? What are some practical manifestations of this in your own life?
4. In Mary's song (vv. 46-55), what are some words or phrases she uses to describe God? How does Mary view her relationship with God? In what ways is this similar to your relationship with God?
5. Many of the thoughts in Mary's song can be found in the Old Testament. (*For example, compare her song with Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.*) What is the value in using Scripture in our prayers and praise to God? Are there ways you've found helpful for doing this yourself? Share with your group.
6. In her song, what does Mary say the Messiah has done (will do) for the world? How have you seen Him do some of these things in your own life or in the world around you? What are some other wrongs or injustices you look forward to seeing Christ one day undo and make right?
7. Though it is clearly the Messiah who will bring justice and righteousness to the world, as Christ's followers, to what degree should we share in God's concern for these issues? (*For example, see James 2:14-17 or 1 John 3:17-18.*) How might we address some of these issues in our own community or world?
8. Mary acknowledges her son has come in fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham (*such as God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 that through him God would bless all nations*). How would you explain to a new believer how his or her life is meant to fit into God's purpose as revealed in these promises?

Apply: As you reflect on Mary's song, what are some ways that you're moved to praise God yourself?

Pray: Spend time praising God together. Ask Him to use each and all of us for His great purposes in the world.