

Mary's Song of Joy

December 1, 2019



Open: What are some of your favorite Christmas songs? What makes these special to you?

Read: Luke 1:39-56

Discuss:

1. From what you know of Mary's encounter with the angel in which she was told she would become pregnant with Jesus (*Luke 1:26-38*), how might Mary have felt as she journeyed to see Elizabeth? 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" or for your "spirit to rejoice in God" (v. 46-47)? What are some practical manifestations of this in your own life?
4. In Mary's song (vv. 46-55), how does she describe God? How does she view her relationship with God? In what ways is this similar to your relationship with God?
5. Almost every thought 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? How could you do this more in your prayers?
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? What are some other wrongs or injustices you look forward to seeing Christ 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 concern for these issues? (*For example, see James 2:14-17 or 1 John 3:17-18.*) What are you doing to address some of these issues?

Apply: Based on Mary's song of joy here, how would you summarize what we should be celebrating at Christmas? How do your Christmas celebrations reflect these truths? How could they do this more?

Pray: Spend time praising God for His mercy and kindness. Ask Him to help us maintain an outward focus this Christmas as we commit ourselves to share in His purpose.

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)