



## THE GIFT OF UNFAILING LOVE

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's Song - "The Magnificat"

Luke 1:46-55, <sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mercy – (*eleos*) - meaning active compassion motivated by tender mercy

### Why People Say No to God's Mercy? (Matthew 1:18-2:18)

- 1) Joseph almost did because of misunderstanding. (Matthew 1:18-21)
- 2) Herod did because of selfishness. (Matthew 2:1:18)
- 3) Israel's chief priests and teachers of the law did because of pride. (Matthew 2:1-18)

Matthew 2:1-6, <sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Finding Salvation Through God's Mercy (Luke 1:51-55)

## 1) God's mercy must work in our HEARTS.

Luke 1:51, He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

Mighty deeds – (*kratos*) - deeds that prove you are the mightiest and therefore have dominion

Inmost thoughts – (*kardia*) - our heart or core where feelings and thoughts make us who we are.

❖ God proves His abundant goodness to those who allow His love to rule their hearts!

John 3:34; Ephesians 1:4-8

## 2) God's mercy requires our HUMILITY, HUNGER AND HONOR.

Luke 1:52-53, <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Luke 2:18-19

## 3) God's mercy invites us to ask for God's HELP.

Luke 1:54-55, <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Galatians 4:4-5, <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Lamentations 3:18-23 (NLT), <sup>18</sup> I cry out, "My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the LORD is lost!" <sup>19</sup> The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. <sup>20</sup> I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. <sup>21</sup> Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: <sup>22</sup> The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. <sup>23</sup> Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

### Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?