

The Magnificat – My Soul Magnifies the Lord – I want you to think about how that reads...

- How can your soul magnify God? To magnify means to appear larger / more important
- How do you make God appear larger/more important...God's already large & important  
Better way to think about it...reflection...does your soul reflect the magnificence of God  
Think of your soul as a giant mirror...what is it reflecting? Before you answer...how?

Your lifestyle reflects your soul's desires | Pursuits of fame, fortune, prosperity or the Lord?

Today we look at Mary the mother of Jesus and she sings a song that is recorded for us

- Song is titled 'The Magnificat' because it is Mary exalting the Lord for what He's done  
Big Idea - Christmas magnifies God's glory | Remember...I'm reading a song  
<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Context – This is part of Luke's 'Birth Narrative' through chapters 1-2

- Chapter 1 = Announcement of JTB to Elizabeth (Cousin) | Angels announce to Mary
  - Mary then visits her cousin Elizabeth and finds out they are both pregnant
  - All we know about Elizabeth & Zachariah is that they were old and barren (Luke 1:7)
- Looking at several miracles here...virgin birth and an old barren birth – Mary Celebrates  
Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989 – bringing an end to decades of oppression and the Cold War
- People erupted into singing because oppression was over and a new era of joy!

Mary now breaks out song because the long wait for the Savior is now over...Christmas sing

## 1. Mary's song reminds us: God works through the lowly (v46-49)

- <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- When we worship God, we are worshiping Him for who He is not the circumstances
- Look at what her desire is...to magnify the Lord...not to make much of 'self' but God  
Think about magnifying glass does...it doesn't make something great...it reveals greatness
- Mary wants the Lord magnified in her soul as her spirit rejoices in God as her savior  
Mary calls 'God her savior' – Catholics 'Pan-a-gia' = Holy One | Free from personal/original
- Isn't true...even Mary herself identifies her need for a savior | Mother of God...not God  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

Another misunderstood passage... 'Hail Mary' – Of course all generations will call blessed

- Chose her by grace to carry the Messiah – Acted powerfully in her obedience  
What it doesn't mean: Worshipped – Sinlessness (Opposite) – Source of blessing  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

Humble servitude – Mary was lowly...town Nazareth (>500 people) – young – poor – virgin

- Humility = magnet God's work...not attracted to our pride of platforms...poor in spirit  
Do you think you're too lowly or too broken to be used by God...think of Mary  
Stop apologizing for your "low estate" and start offering it as a space for God to work.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Takeaway - Respond with humble praise

True worship begins when we realize that the infinite God has recognized the insignificant  
When God's saving grace is understood, the heart responds with joyful, humble worship

## 2. Mary's song reminds us: God flips the world's values (v50-53)

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Great reversal – We see a constant mercy for the humble and destruction for prideful

- Mercy is directed toward those who "fear Him"—those who recognize need for Him  
The world gives "mercy" to the influential; God gives it to the reverent  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
- God's "strong arm" acts as a divine equalizer – No one is as powerful as the strong arm Lord
- He targets the "imagination of their hearts"—the internal root of pride.
  - He dethrones rulers. Not politics; Anyone who believes...masters of their own destiny.
  - Earthly power is fragile and temporary compared to the sovereignty of the Creator
- Think about an hour glass...everyone at the top thinks they are better than the bottom  
Everything that was at the top...status - self-reliance, - thrones of the mighty—is now falling  
Being mighty in this world is no longer an asset; it's a liability

Takeaway - Adopt the mindset of His Kingdom | Three ways to do that...

- a. Audit Your "Pride Weight" (fat) - What are you carrying makes you "heavy" with pride?  
Is it your reputation? bank account? Religious "performance"?  
In God's kingdom, the more you carry of yourself, the faster and harder you will fall
- b. Embrace the Low Places: If you feel like you are at the bottom.....take heart  
Mary says this is exactly the position God looks toward with favor  
Your emptiness is not a failure; it is your greatest qualification for being filled.
- c. Align Yourself with God's vision: (See what God) Stop trying to climb world's ladder  
We to "descend into greatness" by serving those whom society ignores.

The gospel fills those who come empty-handed

Christ is bread for the starving, not a garnish for the satisfied

## 3. Mary's song reminds us: God keeps His promises (v54-55)

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Christmas is a promise fulfilled - God's saving work in Christ fulfillment His ancient promise

Mercy remembered, covenant kept, hope secured forever | Three promises this verse

- a. God helps His people in their need – He has helped His servant Israel  
"Helped" implies intervention for the weak, not reward for the strong  
Christmas is God stepping into human helplessness – Child Falls...why do you pick them up
- b. God remembers you mercifully - in remembrance of his mercy  
God does not "remember" because He forgot; Language is to show God acting in mercy  
Israel's history is marked by failure, but God's mercy remains constant...Your history...  
Your failures do not erase God's memory of mercy – He will not forget...mercy...Christ
- c. God Keeps His Promises Forever - he spoke to our fathers, Abraham to his offspring forever  
Mary connects Jesus directly to the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12; 15; 17)  
"Forever" = enduring nature of God's redemptive plan—fulfilled ultimately in Christ  
Baton Racing – God's promises have been faithfully passed along generation to generation

Takeaway - Be confident in His faithfulness | Think about Christmas.....

- God's promises outlast generations, circumstances, and empires.
- Jesus is the proof that God keeps His word—even when fulfillment takes centuries.

Trust God not only for today, but for eternity

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