



# **Luke**

**1:39-56**

**Mary and Elizabeth**

# Our Three Questions

**1. What does it say?**

- Authorial intent to intended audience

**2. What does it mean?**

- Timeless theological truth

**3. How does it apply?**

- Landing it in our lives

# Luke 1:39-56

**<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,**

# Luke 1:39-56

the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me

# Luke 1:39-56

that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was

# Luke 1:39-56

spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my

Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the

humble estate of his servant.

# Luke 1:39-56

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.

# Luke 1:39-56

**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;**

# Luke 1:39-56

**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,**

# Luke 1:39-56

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

# Preview

- **Mary's trip**
- **Elizabeth's greeting**
- **The Magnificat**
- **About faith and humility**
- **Application**

# Mary's Trip

**34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"**

**35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;**

# Mary's Trip

therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” ...

# Mary's Trip

**<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,**

# Mary's Trip

- Nazareth → the Hill Country of Judah
- Elizabeth as evidence
- Elizabeth as backup
- Elizabeth as family

# Elizabeth's Response

**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,**

# Elizabeth's Response

**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?**

# Elizabeth's Response

**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.”**

# Elizabeth's Response

- **Tag-Team confirmation**
  - **Aside: The “baby” leaps for joy**
- **Holy Spirit involvement**
- **Humility**
- **Faith**

# The Magnificat

**46 And Mary said,**

**“My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> 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;**

# The Magnificat

**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;**

# The Magnificat

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,

# The Magnificat

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.”

# The Magnificat

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

# The Magnificat

**Scripture saturated:**

**Psalms 24:5, 25:5, 69:30, 103:17,  
105:7-11, 107:9, 111:9, 146:7-9**

**Hannah's Prayer:**

**2 Samuel 2:1-10**

# The Magnificat

**Glory to God**

**God the savior for, for, for**

**The reasons**

**He has, he has, he has ...**

**The evidence**

# The Magnificat

**For, for, for**

**He looks upon my humble estate**

**He blesses me**

**He does great things for me**

**This is for all who fear Him forever**

# The Magnificat

He has X5

- **Proud, mighty, & rich**
  - Scatters, brings down, sends away empty
- **Humble, servants, & hungry**
  - Exalts, helps, fills with good things

# Luke's reversal texts

**6:20-26 – Blessings and woes**

**7:36-49, 18:9-14 – Sinners, not the proud, forgiven**

**9:23-27 – Lose your life to find it**

**9:46-47, 22:24-30 – The least are the greatest**

**13:30 – First & last trade places**

**16:19-30 – Lazarus and the rich man**

# Luke's reversal texts

**The proud – Don't deserve a cross**

**The mighty – Don't want to serve**

**The rich – Don't need anything**

# What do we learn?

## About faith:

Encounter → belief → action/risk

## About humility:

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. – 1 Peter 5:5 & James 4:6

# Application

**Faith:**

**We don't have to wait until we have absolute certainty to take action.**

**Wherever you are today, in your faith, take the next step.**

# Application

**Humility:**

**The humble know pride is not below them.**

**Confess sin, forgive, show honor, deflect  
glory up, avoid self-pity, live open-handedly.**

# Questions

**Did anything jump out at you from the text or the message?**

**When you think about faith & belief, do you tend to think of it as a light switch where it is either on or off, or do you think of it as a spectrum from dark to dim to bright?**

**Do you tend to wait until you have all the answers to take action? Do you think Mary was being less than wise by taking such a journey, prior to getting the confirmation of Elizabeth's pregnancy?**

**When you look at those moments in Luke that speak of the reversal of things, what do you think about? Does your mind jump to thoughts like; "well, God isn't against wealth & influence. It's just what you do with it." Do you identify with the rich and mighty or the poor and powerless? What would a homeless carpenter say about you?**