

Sermon Title: The Narrative: A disruptive scene & A dynamic praise

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-56

The fulfillment of the promises of God should further **deeper reflection & rejoicing**

God **lifts the shame & restores the **dignity of people** through Jesus the king of the world**

Lifter of shame

Restorer of dignity

Jesus the king of the world

Spiritual ventriloquism

Spiritual ventriloquism is the tendency to **force my words into God's mouth**

****Don't force the scriptures** or the authors within the scriptures to say what you want them to say**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

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.
Luke 1:26-56

And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.
Luke 1:38

My life is in *your hands*. *Your words* are in my heart

God *lifts the shame* & restores the *dignity of people* through Jesus the king of the world

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.

Who are we becoming by what we are doing, & why we are doing it?

Sexual formation in the way of our world trends toward making our sexual lives the center of our identity instead of a component of our identity

Sexual formation in the way of our world trends towards adopting perspectives & practices that commodify others or ourselves

Sexual formation in the way of Jesus is not about repression or releasing of desire but redirecting desire in a godly manner

-Jon Tyson.

Sexual formation in the way of Jesus:

Involves a vision of our sexual lives.

Exemplifies what sex is for (Calls us to reorder our desires)

Pursued through the power of the Holy Spirit not human willpower (Rely on the Spirit of God)

Involves practices that shape us into the telos of where human sexuality is headed (Calls us to adjust our practices)

Results in restoration not deformation

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

²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:24

And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons,
Leviticus 12:8

Poverty is not a sign of God’s displeasure and affluence is not always a sign of God’s pleasure

Poverty is not a mark of shame and affluence isn’t always a badge of honor

Affluence isn’t a sign of God’s displeasure and poverty isn’t always a sign of God’s pleasure

Affluence isn’t a mark of shame and poverty isn’t always a badge of honor

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

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.”

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Jesus is the King of the Jews

Jesus is **the King of the World**

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.

Jesus is the King of the world, will we let Him be The King of our **hearts**?

*"Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my whole will, all that I have and all that I possess. You gave it all to me, Lord; I give it all back to you. Do with it as you will, according to your good pleasure. Give me your love and your grace; **for with this I have all that I need.**"*

-Ignatius of Loyola