



TODAY'S READING:

Luke 1:46-55:

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

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

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

VALUE GOD'S OPINION MOST

After God revealed His plan for Mary to be the virgin mother of Jesus, she responded with an incredible song of praise. She glorified God for His willingness to use someone humble to carry out His great purpose, and she praised Him for His mercy, faithfulness, and power in fulfilling His promise of a Savior.

One of the most powerful things Mary declared in this song is, "From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me." This was a strong statement of trust in God, because the task assigned to her would likely bring judgment and shame from almost everyone she knew. Who was going to believe Mary was a virgin? Her own fiancé needed the reassurance of an angel to believe her story. Two thousand years later, many still question her claim of virginity.

Knowing this would be the case, Mary focused on the blessing of being chosen by God for such an important purpose. She knew that those who would believe in her Son would honor her and trust God's Word about her integrity. She didn't dwell on the difficulties she might face in society or within her family. She didn't need to defend herself. Mary chose to trust God rather than resist her calling, even if it meant a lifetime of being misunderstood. Whatever God has asked you to do, don't let any potential persecution or judgment of others keep you from obedience. We aren't called to be comfortable, accepted, or understood. We're called to make a difference!

Prayer: Father, thank You for choosing someone as humble as me to be used for Your glory. I commit today to do whatever You want me to do, even if it's difficult. Even if the people around me don't understand. What You think is most important to me. I know Your plans are worth any resistance I might face in this world.