



# Sermon Guide: Joy: The Wise Response

## 12/07/25

**Text(s):** Luke 1:26-56

**Big Idea:** *Joy comes when we recognize God's wisdom at work.*

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**Summary of the Sermon** - Mary's journey shows that true joy begins with faith—trusting God's wisdom even when His plans disrupt our expectations. Her joy grows as God uses fellowship with Elizabeth to confirm His work and magnify her confidence. Ultimately, Mary's song reveals that God's gracious favor expresses itself in joyful worship, even before the fulfillment arrives. Like Mary, we wait with joy because God's promises are sure and His wisdom is always at work.

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### Discussion Questions

1. Where is God calling you to trust His wisdom even though you don't have full clarity?
2. What fears or uncertainties make it difficult for you to submit to God's word and plans?
3. How does Mary's example challenge your understanding of faith and obedience?
4. Who has God used in your life to confirm His work or strengthen your obedience?
5. How might God be calling you to be an "Elizabeth" for someone else?
6. Why is community essential for sustaining joy in the Christian life?
7. How does the Holy Spirit's work in Mary and Elizabeth encourage you to depend on the Spirit for guidance, confirmation, and joy in your own walk of faith?
8. When you think about God's grace in your life, what specifically stirs your heart to worship?
9. Where have you witnessed God overturn the world's values in your own story (exalting the humble, filling the hungry, lifting the lowly)?
10. What promises of God help you experience joy while waiting for Christ's return?