

# The SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

ALIVE IN ADVENT

GLEN BARNES



## Mary's Spirit Filled Song

### SOME EXTRA-BIBLICAL TRADITIONS REGARDING MARY

TRADITION	SCRIPTURE
Sinless.....	Romans 3:23
Mediatrix.....	1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:16
Co-Redemptrix.....	Acts 4:12

### What's So Special About Mary?

Mary is considered special because she was an \_\_\_\_\_ person willing and available to be used by God for \_\_\_\_\_ things.

Open Your Bible to **LUKE 1:26-38** to follow along.



### Two Special Descriptions of Mary (and you)

1. Mary was filled with and \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit.

“ <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.' ~ LUKE 1:35a (NIV)

2. Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ .

“ <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' ~ LUKE 1:28 (NIV)

Highly Favored is from the same root word for \_\_\_\_\_ ; Charis.



Mary's Spirit and Grace Filled Song: **LUKE 1:46-56**

### Because of God's Spirit and Grace Mary Understood...

1. How small she was: Mary saw herself as God's \_\_\_\_\_ .

“ <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”  
~ LUKE 1:48a (NIV)

“ <sup>38</sup> I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said.”  
~ LUKE 1:38a (NIV)

Humble Servant: *Doulos*;  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Someone who belongs to another.

# Humility Opens the Door for God's Favor in Our Lives: Proverbs 3:34, 1 Peter 5:5, Isaiah 66:2b, James 4:10

“ <sup>34</sup> He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.”

~ PROVERBS 3:34 (NIV)

“ <sup>2</sup> These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”

~ ISAIAH 66:2b (NIV)

“ <sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'”

~ 1 PETER 5:5 (NIV)

“ <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

~ JAMES 4:10 (NIV)

## 2. How big God is:

“ <sup>46</sup> My soul glorifies the Lord. <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” ~ LUKE 1:46-47 (NIV)

### Mary Knew God Was:

• \_\_\_\_\_

“ <sup>48</sup> For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.” ~ LUKE 1:48b (NIV)

• \_\_\_\_\_

“ <sup>49</sup> For the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.”

~ LUKE 1:49, 51-53 (NIV)

• \_\_\_\_\_

“ <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful”

~ LUKE 1:50, 54 (NIV)

“

*The song of Mary, it is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings.... This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or playful tones of some of our Christmas carols. It is instead a hard, strong, song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind.”*

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

### DISCUSSION Questions:

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1- When I think of Mary, Mother of Jesus, my first thought is...

2- Review the “extra Biblical” (non-Biblical) traditions about Mary. Why do you think these got started? Why do you think people hold on to these?

3- Read Luke 1:26-38. What is your favorite thing about Mary in this familiar passage?

4- How do you think Mary felt to hear that she was Highly Favored? Pastor Glen suggested that favor is similar to what every believer receives through God's Grace. So how do you feel to be Highly Favored by God?

5- Read Mary's Song. What are the two or three most powerful lines from this song in your opinion?

6- Finish this sentence. When I think of the life of Mary I am inspired to...

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### Impacting the World Around Us

Each year, our church encourages a collective effort to counter the commercialization of Christmas by generously supporting worthy causes for Jesus worldwide. This year's projects are Light 2 The World in Nepal, Odessa Theological Seminary in Ukraine, and Living Water International a project in Guatemala.

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