

the FULFILLING KING

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
12 | 24 | 23

Mary's Song

"The Magnificat"

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His **mercy** extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be **merciful** ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:46-56

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: His **love** endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods. His **love** endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His **love** endures forever.

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, His **love** endures forever.

Psalms 136:1-4

Hesed: When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.

"*Hesed* is an 'indefinable word.' A word that requires paragraphs and parables to provide even a hint of all it might possibly mean. Its meanings cannot be contained by syllables, cannot be fully expressed by the sounds we make with our voices. Groups of letters hint at the inexpressible; they are sounds we put to mysteries."

- **Michael Card**, *Inexpressible: Hesed, The Mystery of God's Lovingkindness* (2018)

Hesed in Action

Ruth & Naomi (Ruth 1) | Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9)

Jacob (Gen. 32) | Jesus & the Pharisees (Matt. 9 & 12 – Hosea 6)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ **This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.**

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ **And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.** ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

1 John 4:7-16

"Jesus is the ultimate loyal and loving human. And in his life, death, and resurrection, God opened up a new future for all of us and for all creation. *And God did this because it's just who God is:* generous, loving, and eternally loyal to his promises. And when we experience the purity and power of God's loyal love shown through Jesus, it compels us to reimagine why and how we can show *hesed*. This is what it means to say that God is overflowing with loyal love."

- **Tim Mackie**, *Loyal Love* (2021)