

1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience? (grasp the text in their town)

Structure diagram Luke 1:46-55

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.”

Summarize what the text originally meant in a past tense statement:

Mary's song praises God's promise of a savior, mercy for the humble, and justice over the proud, echoing Israel's hopes under Roman rule.

2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us? (identify how wide the river of culture/time/situation)

We are not pregnant with Jesus but the promises are the same. The river is not wide.

3. Write down the theological principle(s) found in the text (cross the principiizing bridge).

1:46 *psuche* = soul, heart, mind

1:47 God “my savior” comes in Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:4-8

Jude 24-25

Hebrew – Yeshua (Jesus) = Yahweh saves is salvation

1:48 Mary's words highlight a central biblical theme: God's preference for the humble and His power to transform their lives, making them examples of His mercy and greatness for all time. Psalm 138:6, Luke 11:27.

1:49 *dunatos* – mighty, capable, Mary's words highlight a central biblical theme: God's preference for the humble and His power to transform their lives, making them examples of His mercy and greatness for all time. Psalm 89:8, Zephaniah 3:17

The significance of **God's name** being holy lies in its representation of God's absolute purity, moral perfection, and unique, set-apart nature. When Scripture calls God's name holy, it emphasizes that God is fundamentally different from all creation—transcendent, sacred, and deserving of the highest reverence. This holiness is not just about the sound of the name, but about the character and authority that the name embodies.

1:50 God's mercy is conditional on fearing God. Psalm 86:10, Deut 5:10,

What is mercy (cross reference) = God's compassionate kindness and gracious favor shown to those who reverence Him, extending across generations. This mercy is not limited to a single person or time but is continually available to all who honor and fear God with a reverent heart. It reflects God's enduring love and faithfulness, offering forgiveness, help, and salvation to the humble and lowly who trust in Him.

What is Fear = A reverent awe and deep respect for God, not a fearful dread or terror. This kind of fear is rooted in recognizing God's holiness, power, and goodness, leading believers to honor Him and live according to His will. It is a healthy, motivating reverence that inspires obedience, humility, and a desire to please God, rather than a paralyzing fear of punishment. Psalm 103:13, 17

Generation to Generation = God's mercy is not limited to one time or one group of people but continues and is available to all who fear Him throughout history, from one age to the next. This phrase emphasizes that God's compassion and grace are enduring, stretching across centuries and impacting every generation of those who reverence Him. It also suggests that the benefits of God's mercy can be experienced by descendants of faithful believers, as His promises and blessings are passed down through families and communities

1:51 God's arm = great power! If God had an arm it would be most powerful. Anthropomorphism. Scatters the proud = arrogant - those who exalt themselves and trust in their own wisdom or strength for salvation, holiness. Psalm 98:1; 118:16

1:52 Exalts the humble (cross reference) Psalm 75:7; 107:40-41; 113:7-8

1:53 The "hungry" refers to those who recognize their need and seek God with humility, and God abundantly provides for them. Psalm 34:10; 107:9; Luke 6:21-25

In contrast, the "rich" are those who trust in their own wealth or status and are sent away empty because they do not rely on God for their needs.

God meets the needs of those who come to Him with a humble heart, while those who are self-reliant and proud may find themselves spiritually empty, regardless of their earthly riches.

This is both literal and spiritual, showing that true satisfaction comes from dependence on God rather than anything else.

1:54 God has "helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful," immediately tied in verse 55 to the promise made to Abraham and his offspring forever. This means Mary sees the coming of Jesus already as God's concrete act of covenant faithfulness to Israel. Isaiah 41:8-9; 49:3; Micah 7:20

1:55 God has fulfilled His promise to help Israel, remembering His mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever, highlighting God's faithfulness to His covenant with the patriarchs. Genesis 17:19; Psalm 132:11; Galatians 3:16

4. How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible (consult the biblical map)?

See step above – Write in present tense.

5. How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles (grasp the text in our town)? Apply it!

This step involves several sub steps.

- a. **How did the original author want his audience to apply the meaning?** This is essential for applying in our present-day context.
- b. **Make your applications specific.**
Bring the truth to the specifics of your life. Don't leave things vague and unclear.

- **Specifically, ask what should I (and others) be, think, or do in light of this text's meaning?**
- Being addresses the character.
 - Thinking addresses our understanding of God and our inner thoughts on everything else.
 - Doing addresses the action we take in response.

c. Think of a parallel situation in a contemporary context.

Asking these questions will help you to find appropriate application:

- 1- Is there a command to obey in this passage?
- 2- Is there an example to follow or avoid in this passage?
- 3- Is there a reality to affirm in this passage?
- 4- If so, how should that reality impact my life? (desires, thoughts, beliefs, actions)
- 5- How can I praise Him through this scripture?
- 6- How can I confess my sins on the basis of this scripture?
- 7- If this is really true, what harmful emotions, what wrong behavior or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?
- 8- What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?
- 9- Why is God telling me this today?
- 10- How could my life be different if I were absolutely sure of every one of God's promises that He gave me in this scripture?
- 11- What are some of the challenges or roadblocks that make applying/obeying difficult? (sinful desires, temptations, struggles, wrong ideas, the culture we live in, etc.)
- 12- What would it specifically look like if I lived this out?

True Application and Life Change:

- Occurs as we behold the glory of the Lord in the Word (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22; Romans 8:13)
 - Involves replacing sinful actions with God-honoring ones (Ephesians 4:22-24)
 - Involves a renewal and change in the heart by the Spirit (Ephesians 4:22-24)
 - Requires an understanding that our actions (both good and bad) come from desires in our heart, sometimes even desires for good things (James 4:1-3; Luke 6:43-45).
 - Therefore, true change involves more than behavior change, it involves heart change and desire change.
- Keep these truths in mind as you seek to apply the Scriptures by the grace and power of God!