

- Trust – who and why ... Does hurt influence our trust ... Most would answer: my spouse; proven record; yes ... But doesn't our love for them and their previous faithfulness lead us to trust them despite past disappointments ... In life we can't escape disappointment or hardship ... Doesn't mean we live defeated ... Instead, we don't allow these to dictate how we live and how we relate to others
  - Following God, we tend to be overly concerned with the questions of how, what, when, why ... We want to know all the details upfront before we agree to anything ... But of these questions the most pressing one is the **WHO** ... The answers we seek rest on the **WHO** – who will be with me, who will show me, who will lead me, who will give me ... The **WHO** is always God ... What other details are more important ... What greater assurance is needed ... Just as we can't escape disappointment, neither can we escape God's faithfulness
  - God has a certain predictability about Him ... His answers to our questions and requests aren't predictable ... However, His character is always predictable – it never changes nor never fails ... God is always who He is, and who He is is always perfect – every situation, every time
- Song of Mary causes us to wrestle with these things ... In her song, Mary praises the Lord for two reasons – **48-49** ... She then gives six demonstrations of how the Lord is mighty and holy ... Running thread is God's predictability and our posture ... Consider reality Joseph and Mary are walking into ... Surely, they have unanswered questions ... Yet, there's an assurance Mary stands upon – **the WHO that's walking with them step by step**
  - **48** – Mary refers to herself as the Lord's servant (1:38) ... Note – she takes this posture of humility **because** of the Lord's favor ... Her humble condition doesn't earn God's grace, **but is in response to God's grace**
  - **49** – **His name is holy** ... Everything concerning God is holy ... Undivided, unstained, unchanging, worthy of reverence ... **BERKHOF: HE IS HOLY IN EVERYTHING THAT REVEALS HIM** ... While scripture reveals God's attributes as being equal, one could argue that holiness is central to every other attribute of God ... **Is57:15; Lk1:50-55**
  - **50** – To fear God is to revere Him ... See Him as holy (obey, trust, love) ... **Because** we experience God's mercy, we obey, trust, love, revere Him ... Every action towards God is a response to His actions towards us
  - **51** – His greatest action is seen within the mighty deeds of His arm ... Speaks of God working victoriously to deliver His people – the mighty arm of God's salvation ... **Is52:10** – speaks of the One who will personify the mighty arm of God's salvation ... **His holiness causes Him to respond no other way**
  - **52-53** – Bringing His salvation, God topples every power and rule ... Bringing down the mighty, God exalts the lowly ... **Exalt** – raise to dignity, honor; to endure, sustain, prosper ... **Acts13:17** – the Lord **made** the people **prosper** despite their circumstances in Egypt ... **Jm4:10, 1Pt5:6**
  - **54-55** – Descendents of Abraham – we're included in this ... **Gl3:29**, Paul declares that everyone in Christ is a legitimate descendent of Abraham ... God's mercy to Abraham is His mercy to you ... His faithfulness to Abraham is His faithfulness to you
- Upon entering a season of uncertainty, Mary centers herself on God's predictability ... She's certain that who He is, He will be – and this will never change ... As it's true for Mary and Joseph, so it's true for you and me ... The song of Mary is a song we too can sing