



*The Girl Who Caught  
the Scent of Rain*

DECEMBER 15, 2019

# *The Scent of Rain is in the Air*

- The message of the second advent and first sing in harmony: “People get ready—love is on the way, life is on the way, hope is on the way, help is on the way!”
- The rain of Jesus Christ is coming and the scent is in the air (from the imagery of Job 14:7-9)
- The scent of rain comes to those in obscurity, to those who are dead, dry, dying—a mere stump, a gnarled fist of brittle roots

# An Unlikely Revolutionary

- Luke 1:46-55
- “Because Protestants have spent their time debating about Mary, they have rarely attempted to claim her as their own.” [Scott McKnight, “Why the mother of Jesus was more revolutionary than we’ve been led to believe,” blog post, November 28, 2006]
- At the heart of Mary’s song is something genuinely revolutionary and subversive

# An Unlikely Revolutionary

- Mary's Magnificat isn't a devotional tool for personal prayers; we are meant to sing it with her and declare that justice ultimately will be established
- **Isaiah 35:3-4** NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION  
“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.’”
- Is this not the message of Advent? Help is on the way! Hope is on the way!

# An Unlikely Revolutionary

- **Luke 1:48a** NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION  
“For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”
- “Humble state” refers to her age, background, economic condition, lack of social standing
- It is a description of a dead stump that is coming alive at the scent of rain

# *The Girl Who Caught the Scent of Rain*

- Mary is the girl who caught the scent of rain—and she changed the world as a result
- If any person fits the description of being the dangerous kind, Mary does; she's dangerous because she knows the identity of her son and because she begins to tell his story—and no one is more dangerous than those who tell his story
- Note this, too: the scent of rain doesn't just come to obscure, unlikely people; it comes to obscure, unlikely places

# An Unlikely Message

- **John 3:16-17** THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.”

# An Unlikely Message

- **2 Corinthians 5:19** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION  
“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.”
- This is how God does things when it comes to his love: he always makes it personal and he always makes it global

# *God's Still Doing Now What He was Doing Then*

- He still chooses unlikely places
- He still chooses unlikely people – we are God's first, best choice
- He still chooses an unlikely message and approach – transforming our world with his love and his power