

Sermon 2: Magnificat – My Soul Magnifies the Lord

01/24/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 1:39-56)

1. How do you see the role of John (Elizabeth's baby) already starting to be fulfilled in this passage describing Mary's visit to Elizabeth (vss 39-45)?
2. List several traits that are visible in verses 43-45 that characterize a Spirit-filled response to God's work in this world.
3. What specifically does Elizabeth state is the reason for Mary being blessed according to verse 45?
4. How does Mary's response of praise bring glory and honor to God, and not herself, in verses 46-49?
5. How do verses 50-53 describe the "types" of people whom God blesses & those He withholds blessing or judges?
6. What is common among the people whom God blesses?
7. What does this help us understand about the character and heart of God?
8. In light of the history of God's people (Israel) in the Old Testament, how do verse 54-55 reveal God's faithfulness to His promises?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Mary is the main character in this passage as it reveals her as a humble servant of God's purpose to bring about His plan for Jesus Christ to take on human flesh. Mary's willingness to be God's servant would cause her to experience significant grief (see Luke 2:35) as she wrestled with the reality of this Son being the Savior of the World.

However, Jesus is the greater "Mary" as it didn't just cost Him significant grief in His willingness to be the Father's Servant, it actually cost Him His life. He willingly accepted the Father's will for Himself to become the sacrificial payment for our sin. Jesus Christ came to serve and not be served. Mary, like all of us humans, should serve our Holy God. Jesus, however, should have been served and not been the servant. Instead, He humbly submitted to the Father's plan and became our Savior. He carried our sin and shame to the Cross so that we could become sons and daughters of the Father.

- How does seeing Jesus' infinite humble servanthood at great cost to Himself move you to mature in your service of God and others?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How do Elizabeth's and Mary's response to being servants of God motivate and challenge you to humble service?
2. Humility, trust, joy & praise are key characteristics we see in this passage. Would you say these traits characterize most Christians today? How about you?
3. Mary's belief that God would fulfill His promise of this miraculous birth of a Savior resulted in her being blessed. What truth about our Savior spoken to us as the Church must we believe will be fulfilled by the Lord to experience His blessing?
4. How would our church further impact our city if we believed God's promises concerning His Son with greater humility, trust, joy and praise?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.