

Mary's Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Luke 1:49 'For He who is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is His name.'

1. The Lord chooses those who desire Him; He uses those who seek after Him.

Mary was an ordinary young woman. She had no special qualities other than a heart that desired the Lord and sought after Him. She calls God her Saviour (Luke 1:47) and by this recognises her own sinful nature. Her only claim to importance was that she was born of David's line but the kingly line of David held no status in a nation ruled by Herod the Idumean. Yet this did have great importance in regard to the birth of Jesus because He who was born King of the Jews inherited the throne of David through the lineage of His birth.

The wise men sought Him in the palace at Jerusalem but they found Him in the dwelling of peasants in Bethlehem. The Lord has chosen the despised things of this world so that He will be glorified through them.

Illustration: The beauty of a precious gem is most clearly seen on a plain cloth. The insignificant of this world are given the royal task of displaying the precious gem of new life in Christ.

2. When we trust in Jesus, we must also trust in His ways.

The Lord does mighty things in our life but it does not always mean that our life is going to be easy. Mary had to face the stigma of being thought of as immoral. She was pregnant before she was married. She had to watch the son she gave birth to being crucified. But she trusted in His ways and she was with those who waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14).

The Lord does not do things the way we would do them. If we trust Him then He will lead us in a way that does not appeal to the fleshly minded. This is because we must desire Him more than the recognition and prosperity of the world. The evidence that a person has truly received Christ is that he or she will love Christ and His word. If we love His word then we will recognise His purpose being fulfilled in our life and trust Him not matter what difficulties we face.

3. His wisdom is contrary to man's wisdom. His love is beyond understanding. His might is seen by the weak things; His greatness in humility.

He came not as a conquering warrior but He was conceived by an unmarried young woman. He was born into an insignificant family and brought up in an insignificant town on the border of Israel. He was a carpenter by trade and had no great education. His might is seen by His wisdom. His ways are planned from eternity. He did the impossible when He made a way of justification through faith in Him. It was the Father's will that He should die for His people; it was His love for the Father that led Him to do the Father's will; it was because of His love for us that He was moved Him with compassion; and it was because He humbled Himself, the Son of God became the Son of Man, that He was able to show His might on our behalf.

4. He is holy but did not condemn the unrighteous; He made a way for us to be righteous in Him.

The holiness of Jesus stood in contrast to the legalism of the scribes and Pharisees. Legalism condemns the sinner and promotes the self-righteous. Jesus would not condemn the woman caught in adultery but protected her against the fierce demands of the law. Jesus did not come to condemn us but He came to make a way of salvation for us. His might is revealed in compassion for the sinner; the weakness of the law is revealed in its condemnation of the sinner.

5. He did not seek the acceptance of religious leaders; He had no interest in the self-righteous; He did not seek approval from the mighty and noble in the world. He came for an insignificant people and has made us His own.

The religious leaders hated Him because He spoke with an authority they did not have, and He would not submit to their leadership. The hypocrisy of the Pharisees was seen by their condemnation of sinners; by their pretence of self-righteousness; and by their devotion to scripture while denying the presence of the One who scripture revealed. Their outward appearance covered the inner corruption of the heart.

Jesus came to lead and not to follow. He was willing to be associated with the despised of the world; the outcasts; and those of little regard to the religious leaders. All who follow Him must also be willing to be numbered among the despised and insignificant of the world.

Stephen Dulwich