

Mary's Lesson

Week of Dec. 9 - 15, 2019

Introduction

Mary, a humble peasant girl, was shocked and amazed to hear that she was blessed to carry the Son of God. In this passage, Mary, the soon to be the Mother of Jesus, was filled with such a joy that she sings a song of praise. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have heard her song and melody? Although the music is gone the words live on in our hearts and the promise in our faith!

Lesson Luke 1:46-56

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their innermost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Questions

1. Before Mary begins her Magnificent Song of praise, she sees Elizabeth, and any worry or doubt is put to rest as Elizabeth recognizes the promise of Christ in her! So Mary sings praises to the promises of the past, and now praises to the promises of the future. Mary recognized that Jesus would change the course of the world forever. What is the promise that Jesus brought to Mary and what promise does He bring to our lives now?
2. When Mary first heard the news, she immediately went to see Elizabeth. What is the benefit of Mary staying with Elizabeth for the first 3 months?
3. In our own lives, what is the benefit of surrounding ourselves with those who will encourage us and our relationship with Christ?
4. Mary was able to see the Lord's promise come to fulfillment with Elizabeth. How does seeing promises fulfilled in others help encourage our trust in the Lord? What is hardest about waiting to see a promise revealed?
5. Magnificat is Latin for “magnify”. How does Mary lift a magnifying glass to God? What would you see if you were to truly examine God in your life?
6. Mary refers to herself as being blessed - yet she is not blessed in the way we typically identify as being blessed today. She is poor, disgraced by family and friends and knows that her son will have to suffer greatly. Are blessings from God different from the blessings we feel here on earth?

7. Mary sings of how God will bring down the rich and proud and lift up the humble and hungry. How do you think this relates to how God wants us to live our lives? What does this mean for the wealthy and powerful? Is there hope for them?

Prayer

Magnificent Lord, we witness in awe the humble love that brought your Son here to earth to fulfill the promise of a relationship with you. Mary trusted and for that she was blessed. Each day our sins take us further from you. We cannot reach you on our own doings. Knowing this, you sent us a bridge - the cross - a way for us to come to know you. Help us to sing your praises Lord as Mary did, as we have seen your promise revealed! We humbly pray, Amen.