

“Mary’s Prophetic Song”

Luke 1:46-55

Curt Deming

Melbourne Community Church

December 20, 2015

Christmas songs vs. reality:

- ❖ “Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh”
- ❖ “Chestnuts roasting over an open fire”
- ❖ “Here we come a-wassailing”
- ❖ “Good King Wenceslaus looked out . . .”

Handel's Messiah:

“The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever”

Do you know what Mary knew?

- ❖ God is your savior.
- ❖ God is mindful of you.
- ❖ God is mighty.
- ❖ God is holy.
- ❖ God is merciful.

God's ways are not our ways:

- ❖ The importance / value of women is not determined by a sexist culture.
- ❖ A checkered past does not disqualify you from usefulness to God.
- ❖ It was always God's plan to include Gentiles.

Read about Mary:

- ❖ Matthew 1-2; 13:55
- ❖ Mark 6:3
- ❖ Luke 1-2
- ❖ John 2:1-12; 6:42; 19:25-27
- ❖ Acts 1:14

The Gospel of Luke:

- ❖ Synoptic (like Matthew and Mark), but also distinct
- ❖ 1/3 about women
- ❖ Major theme: liberation of the poor and oppressed

Luke 1-2: Two babies

- ❖ Announced by angels
- ❖ Celebrated with song

Jesus and John the Baptist:

- ❖ Gabriel to Zechariah (1:5-25)
- ❖ Gabriel to Mary (1:26-38)
- ❖ Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-45)
- ❖ Mary's song (1:46-56)
- ❖ Birth of John the Baptist (1:57-66)
- ❖ Zechariah's song (1:67-80)
- ❖ Birth of Jesus (Luke 2)

Luke 1:38

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

**“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then
the angel left her.**

“You’re having a baby.”

- ❖ Sarah laughed (Genesis 18)
- ❖ Zechariah doubted (Luke 1)
- ❖ Mary submitted (Luke 1)

Can you pray Mary's prayer?

- ❖ Humble yourself.
- ❖ Give up control.
- ❖ Work through your doubt.
- ❖ Count the cost.
- ❖ Surrender.

Elizabeth's prophecy:

- ❖ Mary is blessed.
- ❖ Her baby is blessed.
- ❖ Mary's baby is "my Lord."
- ❖ All who believe the Lord's promises are blessed.

Luke 1:45

[Elizabeth to Mary]: “Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Mary's song:

- ❖ God's nature
- ❖ God's purposes
- ❖ God's sufficiency

Who is God?

- ❖ Savior
- ❖ Mindful
- ❖ Mighty
- ❖ Holy
- ❖ Merciful

Our sin problem:

- ❖ Because he is mindful, God is aware of it.
- ❖ Because he is holy, God must deal with it.
- ❖ Because he is merciful, God wants to help you with it.
- ❖ Because he is mighty, God can do it.

Luke 1:46-48

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.”

Luke 1:48-50

“From now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

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

God's mercy to the lowly:

- ❖ Deuteronomy 15:7-11
- ❖ Leviticus 19:9-18
- ❖ Isaiah 1:12-17
- ❖ Amos 2:6-7

Luke 1:51-53

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

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

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

I Samuel 2:7-8

“The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap”

Humility, not pride:

- ❖ Proverbs 3:34
- ❖ I Peter 5:5
- ❖ James 4:6

Pride vs. humility:

❖ **Pride =**

❖ Refusing to accept God's gifts

❖ Taking credit for what God has done

❖ **Humility =**

❖ Accepting God's gifts

❖ Using gifts to serve God

Matthew 5:3

[Jesus]: “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 1:54-55

“He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Genesis 15:5-6

He [God] took him [Abram] outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Luke 1:56

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

What does God do?

- ❖ He lifts up the humble.
- ❖ He fills the hungry.
- ❖ He helps his servants.
- ❖ He keeps his promises.

Do you know what Mary knew?

- ❖ God is your savior.
- ❖ God is mindful of you.
- ❖ God is mighty.
- ❖ God is holy.
- ❖ God is merciful.

Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper