

# **“The Magnificat”**

## **Luke 1:39-56**

Pastor John Miller

### **I. Introduction**

- A. We can only try to imagine the emotions that were racing through Mary’s heart and mind after the visitation and annunciation of the Angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38).
  - 1. Filled with joy, she wanted someone to share it with.
    - a) This is where our story begins (Luke 1:39-45)
- B. Lessons we learn from this passage:
  - 1. The benefit of fellowship and communion between believers (Luke 1:39-40).
    - a) R. Kent Hughes- *“There was a strong human joy in the meeting of these two expectant mothers—one in the flower of youth, the other’s bloom long gone. These two were to become innocent co-conspirators, soul-sisters in the divine plot to save the lost. They would share their hearts as few humans ever have. Through their birthing pain, sweat, and blood, and their mothering too, the world would receive its greatest blessing.”*
    - b) The importance of Christian fellowship
    - c) Happiness communicated doubles itself. Grief grows greater by concealing.
    - d) Think of the mutual encouragement and fellowship that was theirs.
  - 2. The clear spiritual knowledge seen in the words of Elisabeth (Luke 1:41-43)
  - 3. The blessings that came to us through faith (Luke 1:45)
    - a) A time of great joy!
    - b) Mary’s Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56)
- C. Remember, Luke’s gospel is the singing gospel!
  - 1. We come to the first song called “The Magnificat,” after the word in the Latin translation of Luke 1:46.
- D. Background on Mary’s hymn:
  - 1. It shows her knowledge of the Old Testament scriptures.
    - a) The verses form a perfect mosaic of Old Testament quotations.
  - 2. It parallels the song of Hannah.
    - a) Hannah’s song is a shout of triumph in the face of her enemies; Mary’s is a humble contemplation of the mercies of God.
  - 3. It’s Hebrew poetry using parallelism and the prophetic past tense.
    - a) It’s a song of meditation upon the mercy and grace of God.

### **II. Mary Passionately Magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:46-47)**

- A. “God my savior” (Luke 1:47)

B. Mary uses Hebrew poetic parallelism

1. What does it mean to magnify the Lord?
  - a) We magnify Him in our minds
    - 1) When we take into our thinking the greatness of God
  - b) We magnify Him with our lips
    - 1) As we begin to think greater thoughts of God, our lips break forth in praise
  - c) We magnify Him with our whole being
    - 1) “My soul;” “My spirit”
    - 2) Illustration- True worshippers (John 4)
  - d) We magnify Him in corporate worship
    - 1) “Let such as love thy salvation say continually, the LORD be magnified” (Psalm 40:16).

### **III. Mary’s Personal Reasons to Magnify the Lord (Luke 1:48-50)**

A. The divine concession (Luke 1:48)

1. God met her in her humble state
2. Christ comes to the humble; those who realize their need, who cannot save themselves.
3. “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18).

B. The divine blessing (Luke 1:48)

1. We have eternal blessing

C. The divine excellences (Luke 1:49-50)

1. Mary magnifies God for three of His perfections:
  - a) His power (Luke 1:49)
  - b) His holiness (Luke 1:49)
  - c) His mercy (Luke 1:50)

D. God’s mercy is:

1. Great (Isaiah 54:7)
2. Rich (Ephesians 2:4)
3. Plenteous (Psalm 86:5)
4. Abundant (1 Peter 1:3)
5. Sure (Isaiah 55:3)
6. Everlasting (Psalm 106:1)
7. Tender (Psalm 25:6)
8. New every morning (Lamentations 3:23)
9. High as the heavens (Psalm 36:5)

### **IV. Mary Looked Across History and Sang Prophetically of the Mighty Reversals the Son Would Bring to the World (Luke 1:51-56)**

- A. The moral reversal (Luke 1:51)
  - 1. History- Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4)
  - 2. Prophecy- Herod Agrippa (Acts 12)
- B. The social reversals (Luke 1:52)
  - 1. History- Belshazzar (Daniel 5)
  - 2. Prophecy- “the meek will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5)
  - 3. “Humble yourselves therefore” (1 Peter 5:6)
- C. The spiritual reversals (Luke 1:53)
  - 1. “He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:9 NLT)
  - 2. “The church at Laodicea” (Revelation 3)

## **V. Mary Sings of God’s Eternal Mercy as Seen in His Covenant Faithfulness (Luke 1:54-55)**

- A. God always keeps His promises
  - 1. All fulfilled in Jesus

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Jesus has turned the world on its head:
  - 1. Morally- He scatters the proud
  - 2. Socially- He lifts the humble
  - 3. Spiritually- He fills the hungry with good things
- B. All reason to magnify the Lord