



Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

And Mary said:

"My soul magnifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

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

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

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

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

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Background of Mary's Song

- Mary is believed to be 12 or 13 years old.
- She grew up in Nazareth, a tiny village of the working poor outside the wealthy city of Sepphoris.
- The angel Gabriel appears announcing that Mary is "_____ " and that "the Lord is with her" and that she will give birth to the Son of God.
- Terrified, Mary leaves Nazareth and travels ten days to see her relative, Elizabeth, who lives in a village outside Jerusalem.
- Six months earlier, the angel Gabriel announced that Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, would have a child.
- When Mary greets Elizabeth, Elizabeth is immediately filled with the Holy Spirit and says, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
- Only then does Mary know that she is not going crazy; she does not need to be afraid. Mary is filled with joy.

You May Have Seen Mary's Song Before

- The Song first appears in the Old Testament – 1 Samuel 2, on the lips of Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel.
- Hannah had been unable to have children, but she became pregnant, gave birth to Samuel and dedicated him to the Lord at an early age.

- Mary paraphrased the Song of Hannah.

Mary's Song: *The Magnificat* – A DANGEROUS Song

- Banned in _____ (1980's). The government believed Mary's Song might lead the people to revolt and attempt to overthrow the regime.
- In _____ (1936-1979). During the Somoza dictatorship when the peasants were struggling against a repressive government, many people carried a copy of the Magnificat with them due to the promise of God's liberation.

Exploring Mary's Song

"My soul magnifies the Lord..." (v.46)

- The Latin word "Magnificat" means _____.
- Here, Mary begins to realize just how big and great God is.
- She is astounded that God has loved and chosen her.

"and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (v.47)

- The Greek word for "rejoices" means to _____.

Why is Mary "leaping for joy?"

"for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant." (v.48)

- Even though Mary is a nobody from the working-poor village of Nazareth, God chose her.

Nathanael to Philip: ***"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"***

John 1:46 (NIV)

"for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant." (v.48)

- "Lowliness" means unimportant, powerless, and insignificant.

"for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." (v.49)

- It is as if Mary is saying, "My soul magnifies the Lord because He has magnified me!"

"His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." (v.50)

- Mercy is one of the major themes of Mary's Song.
- As a follower of Jesus Christ, you are to be merciful.

Are you "full of mercy?"

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 (NIV)