

Powerful lessons from the Song of Mary

Opening Text: Luke 1:39-55

This is the song of Mary when she met her cousin Elizabeth.

Everything about the encounter of these two cousins was dramatic and powerful: Elizabeth's son (John) leaped for joy in her mother's womb. Elizabeth on the other hand was filled with the Holy Spirit and started prophesying with a loud voice saying, '*blessed is she who believed for there will be a fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Lord*'. As for Mary she broke into the prophetic song we read today.

Heaven and earth, angels and men, adults like Elizabeth, teenagers like Mary and even the unborn like John could not stay indifferent at the entrance of the Son of God into our world!

I want us to look at the song of Mary today. Luke is the only gospel where it is recorded.

This was not a song Mary knew beforehand, but one that came as the Holy Spirit completely took over that moment (it would have been impossible for that young lady, not being exactly a bible scholar, to spontaneously sing a song that quotes directly Psalms 22, 30, 34, 44, 103, 107, 138 and 1 Samuel).

The song of Mary highlights powerful nuggets, wonderful lessons we need to revisit, like worship, humility, the greatness of God and the importance of staying hungry for God. I sense that the Holy Spirit is highlighting these to us today.

1. Worship

V.46 *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

- a) Worship was the only appropriate way Mary found to celebrate the coming of the Son of God into our world.
- b) 'My soul' (*psyche* – mind, will and emotions) and 'My spirit' (*pneuma* – the inner man, the real me) – It is the kind of worship that involves every aspect of our human personality.

Mark 12:30^a - *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

2. Humility

V.48 - *For He has regarded the **lowly state** of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*

- a) This song speaks of humility. However, it also speaks about ***the proud, the mighty and the rich*** (Verses 51-53).

The proud, mighty, and rich had the pre-eminence, they were the dominant class. Mary prophesies that with her Son there would be a reversal of fortunes. God would look upon the lowly. The meek would inherit the earth (in the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:5)

- b) Mary says that the Lord regarded her lowly state. She is not rich and famous, but her humility is exactly what God is after! The word's labels and prestige are not important to God. He is looking for the heart of a person, as He did with Mary.

V.52 - *He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly.*

(1 Peter 5:6 - *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time)*

Psalms 136:23 - *Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy endures forever;*

- c) God is attracted to humility.

James 4: 6 - *God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble*

- d) Jesus defined Himself in this way:

Matthew 11:29 - *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

3. Faith in the greatness of God

V.49 - *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.*

- a) Because of Israel's disobedience, God hadn't spoken in 400 years (since Malachi). There was no prophetic word, no vision, no guidance, no miracles.

They had heard much about the parting of the red sea and the miracles of the conquests in their synagogues - they had heard the stories, but nobody had seen God move in a long time.

However, El-Shaddai, the Almighty God, is visiting Israel again: the power of the Most High over-shadowed Miriam (Mary) and she has conceived. She shall bring forth a Son and shall call His name Yeshua (Saviour) Jesus!

V.51a – “*He has shown strength with His arm*”

- b)** That is why Mary starts her song with these words, “***My soul magnifies the Lord***”

Magnify – in the Greek, *Megalynei* – *to make great, to magnify, to enlarge, to declare great, to esteem highly, to extol, to celebrate*

This is a song to magnify the Lord (not Mary by the way). He needed to be seen and believed as the Almighty God again.

Israel was occupied by Rome. Augustus sat in a throne as god and was worshiped as such. Augustus means majestic.

It was time for Israel to see their God again. The Lord needed to be magnified, enlarged, in their hearts – and believed again!

How big do you believe God to be?

Mary believed the greatness of God. That's why Elizabeth said, '*blessed is she who believed for there will be a fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Lord*'

4. Staying hungry for God

V. 53^a - *He has filled the hungry with good things*

The Passion Translation puts it this way: *Those who hunger for him will always be filled, but the smug and self-satisfied he will send away empty.*

Psalms 107:9 - *For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.*

It is not the indifferent that will be satisfied but the hungry.

Conclusion

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus let us remember that this is such a big deal that the Holy Spirit even gave Mary a song for the occasion. He ignited a song of worship in Mary. Let us also learn the lessons of that song: humility, faith in the greatness of God and the importance of staying hungry for Him. These are ingredients that please the heart of God and that He feels drawn to.