

Christmas Part 3: Mary, A Lesson on Worship

Luke 1:46-55



Luke 1:46-56 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 "For He has looked upon the humble state of

His slave, for behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed. 49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. 50 "And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. 51 "He has done a mighty deed with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. 52 "He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. 53 "He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent away the rich empty-handed. 54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever."

We discover through the account of Mary what God desires as our right response to Him in light of His divine action at Christmas. It is at Christmas that Christ's birth should bring forth faith and worship in our lives. We discover Mary's example of faith among Gabriel's announcement of the birth of Christ, and we later discover Mary's example of worship as her response to God's action in her life.

1) Worship Involves the Whole Person Mary's praise draws attention to her whole being in worship to God. So profound is her

magnification, rejoicing, and blessing that her soul, spirit, and body are all brought together, unified in praise and worship towards God.

Worship starts in **Mary's soul**. When Mary says, "My soul magnifies the Lord", that means every aspect of her emotions, her will, her intellect, are all dominated by a declaration that the Lord is great. For us today, when our emotions, our mind, or our will is focused on something other than God during worship, then that is not worship that God receives.

Worship includes **Mary's spirit**. When God saves us, He equips us in our spirit, so we can worship the One who is spirit. And Mary says "my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." That means, for us, our spirit came alive and rejoiced in the salvation we received from God. If you don't know how to worship, don't know where to start, and don't know why you should praise God this morning, then contemplate your salvation. Your spirit is ready to burst forth this morning, because in Christ you have found a Savior.

Worship does not neglect **Mary's body**. Mary withheld nothing from God in her act of worship to him. Her very body became the instrument of God which brought forth Jesus into the world. Paul reminds us, that like Mary, we are to present our bodies as a sacrifice to the Lord as our spiritual service of worship. That means we are to keep our physical body's set apart from the things of this world, dedicated to the service of God, and kept pure as a spiritual act of worship.

This Christmas, while the whole world celebrates a season, let us in the church worship a Savior. Let us give to God the only things He does not already have; our worship.