

Christmas Part 4: 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."

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.

2) Worship Is Initiated By God Mary's worship is a response to what God has done in her life. Worship does not start with us, it starts with God. God acts in our life, He reveals Himself to us, and then we respond to that action in worship. It can become very easy for us not to know why we should worship God if we are not looking for His presence in our lives. But we have to stop, and take notice, to find God's fingerprints in our lives over the past week.

3) Worship Is Centered On God Mary whole praise is an acknowledgment of what God has done, she gives Him all the credit, and she returns His actions back to Him in glory and praise. Our worship need not be some complicated ritual. It is simply telling God that you know what He did, and glorifying His name because He did it. We do not need to wait until Sunday to worship. Our worship can come forth every time we see God working in our lives.

This Christmas, while the whole world celebrates a season, let us in the church worship a Savior. Mary believed what God did, is doing, and will do (faith) and Mary praises God for what He did, is doing, and will do (worship). We bring our focus at Christmas upon a great work God did in the past; He brought forth Christ into the world. God Himself became a man so that the world may know a Savior. But Christmas is not a memorial occasion, Christmas draws our focus to the past, so that we can appreciate our present, and rejoice in our future hope. Merry Christmas!