

MAGNIFICENT MOTHERHOOD

Luke 1:46-55

May 8, 2022

The "Magnificat" (Latin: *Magnificat anima mea Dominum*- v. 46)

1. She Understood What it Meant to "Rejoice in the Lord."

📖 Her soul magnifies (praises, exalts) the Lord (v. 46 My soul magnifies the Lord)

The soul which is humble is quick to acknowledge God's good hand in all of life, even in difficult or painful circumstances.

The more honor God has in any way put upon us, the more honor we must study to give to him. Matthew Henry

Psalm 42:5 (& 11) ^(NIV84) - Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 103:1-2 ^(NIV84) - Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits

📖 Her spirit rejoices in God her Savior (v. 47 - "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!")

2. She Understood What it Meant to be God's Maidservant.

📖 She had no sense of entitlement, rather she saw herself as a lowly servant girl (v. 48 - He has looked on the humble estate of his servant.)

Luke 17:10 ^(ESV) - So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; **we have only done what was our duty.**"

There is only one answer for the preacher who wonders whether he is worthy to preach the sermon he has composed or for the writer who wonders whether he is worthy to write the religious book he is working on. The answer is: Of course not. To ask yourself: "Am I worthy to perform this Christian task?" is really the peak of pride and presumption. For the very question carries the implication that we spend most of our time doing things we are worthy to do. We simply do not have that kind of worth. - Harry Blamires

Humility toward others..., is... a recognition that all we are and do that is of any worth is a gift of God's grace. Hence, humility turns the

temptation to pride into an occasion for gratitude to God for what He has done in and through us. Jerry Bridges

All of us are susceptible to pride. And pride stands in direct opposition to grace, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Jerry Bridges

📖 She saw the huge blessing of being a servant whom God uses (v. 48 - he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, **from now on all generations will call me blessed.**)

"A teacher asked a boy this question on fractions: 'Suppose that your mother baked an apple pie, & there were seven of you—your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?' 'A 6th, ma'am,' the boy answered. 'But there are seven of you,' said the teacher. 'Don't you know anything about fractions?' 'Yes, teacher,' replied the boy, 'I know all about fractions, but I know all about Mother, too. Mother would say she did not want any pie!'" William James

What, exactly was it that Mary did that resulted in "all generations [calling her] blessed?"

She bore a child & raised him to the best of her ability...

📖 She understood that God is Holy (vs. 49 - He who is mighty has done great things for me, & holy is his name.)

Isaiah 6:5 ^(NIV) - "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, & I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

📖 She saw the connection between God's holiness and our need to acknowledge His undeserved goodness to us. (vs. 49 - He who is mighty has done great things for me, & holy is his name.)

To have the attitude that God owes me something is exceedingly dangerous to spiritual health. It will ruin our relationship with God, nullify our effectiveness in ministry, and perhaps turn us bitter or resentful. (Bridges)

A sense of entitlement robs us of the joy of appreciation

A rejection of any sense of entitlement results in more thankfulness & appreciation of every good thing God blesses us with... beginning with the atonement

3. She Knew God's Word and the Importance of Passing This on to the Next Generation.

📖 She saw the importance of passing this understanding on from generation to generation (vs. 50 - His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.)

It is really something to think that the first things Jesus learned about God the Father was from this woman.

📖 She was very knowledgeable of Scripture
"The Magnificat," as the song is called, consists almost entirely of Old Testament allusions and quotations.
vv. 46, 48 & 51 use 1 Samuel 2:1-10;
v. 48 uses 1 Samuel 1:11;
v. 50 uses Genesis 12:3, Psalm 103:17 and Psalm 145:4;
v. 51 uses Psalm 89:10;
v. 52 uses Job 5:11, 12:19;
v. 53 uses Psalm 107:9;
v. 54 uses Isaiah 41:8, 9;
v. 55 uses Genesis 17:7 and Micah 7:20.

📖 She understood the truth that things are not as they may seem to us at the time (vv. 51-53 - He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.)

Life often seems unfair. The problem is that we do not, CAN not see the whole picture.

📖 She believed God's promises. (vv. 54-55 - "He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever")

She took God at His Word.

She knew and rested in the promises made to her ancestors.

A pregnant Jewish girl from Nazareth, engaged to marry a poor carpenter, what did Mary have to sing about? She sang about the Lord, what He did for *her* (vv. 46-49), for *all who fear Him* (vv. 50-53), and for *His people Israel* (vv. 54-55). God gives power to the weak, thrones to the lowly, and food to the hungry; but the strong, the rich, and the mighty go away empty.

A Truth to Remember: Mothers can, and do, have a very profound impact on their children. Perfection is not going to happen. Faithfulness and perseverance are a must.

A Challenge to Consider: How can you honor God for your mother (or as a mother) in the week to come?

Those of you who are mothers (as well as the rest of us),

- Does your soul magnify the Lord?
- Do you speak to your soul, urging your soul to do so, preaching the gospel to yourself time and again?
- Do you find joy in the fact that Jesus is your Savior?
- Do you find your joy in the Lord, rather than in your circumstances?
- Do you reject all sense of entitlement, seeing yourself as His maidservant (or manservant)?
- Have you seen and acknowledged the huge blessing of being His servant?
- Do you really believe that He is HOLY?
- Do you see the connection between His holiness and your need to acknowledge His undeserved goodness to you?
- Do you understand the vital importance of passing this understanding on to the next generation?
- Are you growing in your knowledge of God's Word?
- Do you understand the truth that things are often not as they may seem to us?
- Do you believe His promises?

Those of you who were raised by God-fearing mothers like Mary, when is the last time you explicitly thanked God for her? Are you striving to apply what you saw in her?

One thing I heard this morning was...

One way I heard the gospel this morning was...