

Praise from a Humble Slave, Part II

Brandon Phillips / General

God's Gift of Christmas / Incarnation; Jesus; Redemption; Jesus' Birth / Luke 1:46–56
In Luke 1:46-55, Mary has two clear motivations for magnifying God and rejoicing in Him despite her great difficulties.

Pre-sermon Comments

[Psalm 103:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ But the lovingkindness of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

[Psalm 107:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.

Sermon Text

Luke 1:46–55

⁴⁶ 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.”

Review

[Luke 1:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John.

[Luke 1:31-33](#) (LSB) ³¹ “And behold, you will conceive in *your* womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom.”

[Matthew 1:18](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Now this is the key to understanding Mary's praise. It is an expression of great faith. It is an expression of her love for God, her worship of God, her understanding of Scripture, the promises of God, the pledges of God. A young woman in incredible circumstances with immense challenges and difficulties who was nevertheless pouring out worship to the God she knew and the God she believed. ~ John MacArthur

Mary magnified God and rejoiced that:

Proposition and Outline

In [Luke 1:46-55](#), Mary has two clear motivations for magnifying God and rejoicing in Him despite her great difficulties. She magnifies God and rejoices that He has:

1. Fully Considered Our Humble State ([Luke 1:46-49](#))
2. Fully Confirmed His Promised Redemption ([Luke 1:50-55](#))

God Has Fully Considered Our Humble State ([Luke 1:46-49](#))

God has considered our humble worship ([Luke 1:46-47](#))

[Luke 1:46-47](#) (LSB) ⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

True worship comes from the depths of our being!

True worship springs from the heart of saved sinners

Mary confesses that the foremost work God did for her was that He regarded her, which is indeed the greatest of His works, on which all the rest depend and from which they all derive. ~ **Martin Luther**

God has considered our humility ([Luke 1:48a](#))

[Luke 1:48](#) (LSB) ⁴⁸ “For He has looked upon the humble state of His slave, For behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed.

[Isaiah 6:1-4](#) (LSB) ¹ In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory.” ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called out, while the house of God was filling with smoke.

[Isaiah 6:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts.”

When you're overwhelmed with your sinfulness and you're knowledgeable about God's holiness, and you're blessed to know that a holy God would work in your life. That's humility. ~John MacArthur

God has considered our future ([Luke 1:48b](#))

[Luke 1:48](#) (LSB) ⁴⁸ “For He has looked upon the humble state of His slave, For behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed.”

[Isaiah 46:9-10](#) (LSB) ⁹ “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My counsel will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’,

God has considered our past ([Luke 1:49a](#))

[Luke 1:49](#) (LSB) ⁴⁹ “For the Mighty One has done great things for me, And holy is His name.

[Ephesians 2:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God has ultimately considered His holy name ([Luke 1:49b](#))

[Luke 1:49](#) (LSB) ⁴⁹ “For the Mighty One has done great things for me, And holy is His name.

[Psalm 105:1-3](#) (LSB) ¹ Oh give thanks to Yahweh, call upon His name; Make known His acts among the peoples. ² Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Muse on all His wondrous deeds. ³ Boast in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek Yahweh be glad.

God Has Fully Confirmed His Promised Redemption ([Luke 1:50-55](#))

He has fully confirmed His promises ([Luke 1:50](#))

[Luke 1:50](#) (LSB) ⁵⁰ “AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

[Psalm 103:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ But the lovingkindness of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children,

[Psalm 103:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Bless Yahweh, O my soul, And all that is within me, bles His holy name.

[Psalm 103:2-16](#) (LSB) ² Bless Yahweh, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; ³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle. ⁶ Yahweh performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. ⁷ He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. ⁸ Yahweh is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. ⁹ He will not always contend with us, And He will not keep His anger forever. ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, And He has not rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, So Yahweh has compassion on those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He Himself knows our form; He remembers that we are but dust. ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flowers. ¹⁶ When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.

[Psalm 103:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ But the lovingkindness of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

He has fully confirmed His power ([Luke 1:51-52](#))

[Luke 1:51-55](#) (LSB) 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.”

[Luke 1:51-52](#) (LSB) 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.

He has fully confirmed His help ([Luke 1:53-54](#))

[Luke 1:53-54](#) (LSB) 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,

[Psalm 107:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.

[Psalm 105:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Oh give thanks to Yahweh, call upon His name; Make known His acts among the peoples.

[Psalm 106:1-2](#) (LSB) ¹ Praise Yah! Oh give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good; For His lovingkindness endures forever. ² Who can speak of the mighty deeds of Yahweh, Or can make all His praise to be heard?

[Psalm 107:1-3](#) (LSB) ¹ Oh give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good, For His lovingkindness endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of Yahweh say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary ³ And gathered from the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south.

[Psalm 107:4-7](#) (LSB) ⁴ They wandered in the wilderness along the way of the wasteland; They did not find an inhabited city. ⁵ Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried out to Yahweh in their trouble; He delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷ He led them by a straight way, To go to an inhabited city.

[Psalm 107:8](#) (LSB) ⁸ Let them give thanks to Yahweh for His lovingkindness, And for His wondrous deeds to the sons of men!

[Psalm 107:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.

[Luke 1:53](#) (LSB) ⁵³ “HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS, And sent away the rich empty-handed.

[Luke 1:54](#) (LSB) ⁵⁴ “He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

[1 Corinthians 1:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

[Isaiah 29:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be hidden.”

As long as you're going to be proud and self-sufficient, you're going to trust in your riches, and in your throne, your achievement, your exaltation, God is going to tear you down. But where your heart is hungry and you recognize your low estate and your servile circumstances, God will lift you up. ~ John MacArthur

[Matthew 5:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

He has fully confirmed His word ([Luke 1:55](#))

[1 John 2:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

[Luke 11:27-28](#) (LSB) ²⁷ Now it happened that while Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” ²⁸ But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

Because Mary believed the Word of God, she experienced the power of God. ~ **Warren W. Wiersbe**

[Luke 1:55](#) (LSB) ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his seed forever.”

[Genesis 17:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your seed after you.

[Genesis 3:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

[Genesis 12:1-3](#) (LSB) ¹ And Yahweh said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, And from your kin And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

[Genesis 15:1-5](#) (LSB) ¹ After these things the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” ² And Abram said, “O Lord Yahweh, what will You give me, as I go on being childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Since You have given no seed to me, behold, one born in my house is my heir.” ⁴ Then behold, the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, “This one will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” ⁵ And He brought him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your seed be.”

[Genesis 17:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your seed after you.

[Galatians 3:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, “And TO YOUR SEED,” that is, Christ.

[Luke 1:55](#) (LSB) ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his seed forever.”

Conclusion:

[Luke 1:32-33](#) (LSB) ³² “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom.”

[Matthew 1:21](#) (LSB) ²¹ “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

[Matthew 1:25](#) (LSB) ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

[Matthew 13:55–56](#) (LSB) ⁵⁵ “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ “And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?”

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy

Is heaven's perfect Lamb?

That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am

The baby Mary carried was not a Caesar, a man who would become a god, but a far greater wonder—the true God who had become a man! ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

The Gospel

[John 14:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.”

[Hebrews 9:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

[Philippians 2:9–11](#) (LSB) ⁹ Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Our family gatherings on earth must have an end one day. Our Last earthly Christmas must come. Happy indeed is that Christmas which finds us prepared to meet God! ~ JC Ryle

If the Holy Spirit has laid anything on your heart in the preaching of this sermon, please contact one of the leaders or speak to a mature Christian to answer your questions. We can be contacted at brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org or Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

Next week, we will study [Luke 1:50-55](#) where we will see that -

Further Quotes

Joseph and Mary capsulized the mystery of grace—the King does not come to the proud and powerful but to the poor and powerless. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

In genuine humility Elizabeth recognized the greater blessing God had given to Mary. ~ **Leon Morris**

Mary is saying that God's action in the Messiah is not so much completely new as a continuation of his mercy to Abraham. It is also in accordance with his promises to the fathers of old time. ~ **Leon Morris**

We should not miss the absence of all jealousy in Elizabeth's attitude to Mary. ~ **Leon Morris**

It is very likely that Luke's source was Mary herself. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Mary's song, the *Magnificat*, is one of the most important hymns in the history of the church. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Mary's feelings are clear. God owes her nothing, while she has received everything from him. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

Mary is about to receive freely the special favor of God. She is a picture of those who receive God's grace on the basis of his kind initiative. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**