

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

My soul magnifies the Lord!

"He who is mighty has done great things for me"

Luke 1:38-56

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Vs. 38, After the angel Gabriel announces God's calling on her life (**Vs. 26-37**)

- Mary declares her relationship with God
- "**Behold**" = Be certain as you see me. This is who I am.
- "**The maidservant of the Lord!**" = Voluntary slave, subserviency & subjection
- "**Let it be to me according to your word**" – Surrender, Submission & Subjection

This is the foundation of **who she was already**...

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That is our calling, too...

- To bring forth the life of God's Son through us, **without reservation**
- **Acts 1:8**, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses..." = Martyr (**Acts 22:20**, Stephen)

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So... **are we?**

- **Voluntary slaves**, subservient in subjection to God?
- **Romans 1:1**, Paul uses the same word, "**Bondservant**"
- **A ready sacrifice** like Mary, Stephen, Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego
- **None of them knew** if it would be required of them
- But because it was **who they made themselves to be...**

- **In response to who God is...** they didn't hesitate

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Vs. 39-40, "Mary arose and went with haste..., to the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth."

- Word of **Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy** had spread
- But, **no one else knew of Mary's** even more miraculous conception...
- Much less **WHO** her baby was
- Does she go hoping for someone who will understand?
- Elizabeth's pregnancy brought **great joy!**
- **What sort of reception** might Mary anticipate?

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Vs. 41-42, "When **Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting**, the baby leaped in her womb, and **Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.**"

"Then she exclaimed, "**Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!**"

- Mary knows no one else knows. It's too early to be showing
- **Only God** could reveal this
- She doesn't need to worry about breaking this news

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Vs. 43-45, "But why am I so favored, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **Blessed is she**

who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!"

- **Double Shock!!** She not only knows she's pregnant...
- She knows **who she's pregnant with!**
- This is the gift of **Word of Knowledge** (1 Cor. 12:8)
- Who's ministry is it anyway, Mary, Liz & us? (Acts 1:8)
- **The Holy Spirit**

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"Blessed is she who has believed... that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!"

- Liz also knows God has made promises to her
- You could think Mary **might be speechless...** She wasn't

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Vs. 46-49, And Mary said:

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
For He who is mighty **has done great things for me,**
And holy is His name."*

.....
"My soul magnifies the Lord"

In the **inexplicable reality** of what God has called me to...

- **I expand** beyond my own comprehension **my belief in who He Is!**
- He has so amazed me that I cannot define **my sense of His Greatness!!**
- I am **overwhelmed with joy** because of **His involvement** in my life

*"For He who is mighty **has done great things for me"***

- I count them as **done already**

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Having **identified herself as God's slave** to Gabriel...

- She declares **He has redefined her** further

Vs. 51-53, She goes on to say...

*"He has **scattered the proud** in the imagination of their hearts. (Babel)*

*He has **put down the mighty** from their thrones,
And **exalted the lowly.***

*He has **filled the hungry** with good things, (Matt. 5:6)*

*And the rich He has **sent away empty.**"*

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*How highly exalted to be **called to bring Christ** to the world!*

- How unlike the values of the world He is
- And calls us to join Him in it
- **Philippians 2:5-8**, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **made Himself** of no reputation, taking **the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death"

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*Has God made promises to you, **personally?***

- There are promises He's made to us all – **plural**
- **Romans 8:29**, "For those He foreknew He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son"**

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*As humans, there's the risk of thinking **our desires** are God's promises*

- How easily Eve transposed God's words, before she sinned

*Be certain, that what He actually promised, **He WILL fulfill***

- Even those **in Hebrews 11:13 & 36-39**
- "These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance, welcomed them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth."

- **When, where & how** He fulfills them is in His perfect will

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Our hindsight lets us eagerly identify with her

- And well we should

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But it was **her identity & foresight** that compelled her to agree

- That is where we need to join her
- Knowing **we are highly favored** to called by Him
- And **rejoicing** in what He has promised...
- Even **before He accomplishes it**