

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Luke 1.26–56

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Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Isaiah 7.13–14

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Anything on Jesus

Persuasion:

I. Luke 1.26–27 • God Sent Gabriel to Mary

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

- A. Six months after Elizabeth became with child,
1. the same angel who appeared to Zacharias,
 2. appeared to a virgin named Mary,
 - a) going to a city in Galilee named Nazareth,
 - b) where we learn later in John's Gospel Account
 - (1) that there was something about Nazareth
 - (2) that when one of the future apostles heard
 - (a) the Messiah had found there
 - (b) that future apostle questioned:

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

– John 1.46

- B. Yes, something very good and something very wonderful
1. came out of Nazareth and
 2. the world has never been the same since.

II. Luke 1.28–29 • Highly Favored One

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” 29 But when she saw him,

she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

A. He greeted her with a high-sounding salutation.

1. She was just a young lady from a town
2. that others questioned whether anything good could come from there.
 - a) For such words to be spoken to her, and
 - (1) by an angel,
 - b) must have been very humbling.

B. She was to rejoice because

1. she was highly favored,
2. the Lord was with her, and
3. she was blessed among women.

C. As you can imagine,

1. she was unsettled at
 - a) his appearance and
 - b) his saying.
2. Both of those things would get your attention.

D. However, Luke shows that what Gabriel said

1. is what caught her attention the most.
2. She pondered what an angel would say to her.
 - a) Would you not also be confused at what he said,
 - b) if he said it to you?

E. Think of it: An angel of God said

1. You are highly favored
2. The Lord is with you
3. You are blessed among women.

- a) We might argue that all three of those things
 - b) could be said about any godly woman, and
 - (1) for that manner any godly man, except
 - (2) saying that you are blessed among men.
- F. Yet, God actually sent an angel to her to make this announcement.
- 1. Why?
 - 2. You would question as to why you received this special visit.
- G. Then this angel gave an explanation...

III. Luke 1.30–33 • You Have Found Favor with God

30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.”

- A. Then Gabriel shifted the focus from Mary to her child, a son, for
- 1. it was all truly about the son she would bear and
 - 2. not about her.
 - a) She was not to fear, because
 - b) she had found favor with God himself.
- B. She would conceive and bring forth a son, and
- 1. the name of the baby already had a name:
 - 2. Jesus.
 - a) Ἰησοῦν or Ἰησοῦς means Savior.
 - b) She knew more than we do
 - (1) that when God gives a name,
 - (2) it has a special and great meaning.

- (a) Therefore, her son would in some fashion
- (b) be a Savior.

C. Gabriel also declared that Jesus would be great.

- 1. Somehow that seems like an understatement.
- 2. Just how great is Jesus?

D. He will be great because he will be the Son of the Highest.

- 1. Gabriel told her that this boy would be the Son of God.
- 2. If she was shook up before,
 - a) she would have been overwhelmingly so now.
 - b) She would conceive in her womb the Son of God.
 - (1) The Son of the Highest would make his entrance into the world
 - (2) through her.
- 3. Gabriel was not done.

E. He revealed that the Lord God would give her son the throne of David.

- 1. Did she begin at this moment or
- 2. somewhere along the way realize
 - a) that this baby boy would be the Christ,
 - b) that her people had been anticipating for centuries?
 - (1) What a special moment this was.
 - (2) No one had ruled on the throne of David in about 400 years.
 - (a) Now her son would be the next one, and
 - (b) he would be the final one.

F. He would be the final son of David to sit on the throne because

- 1. he would reign over the house of Jacob forever and
- 2. of his kingdom there would be no end.

a) That sounds like the prophecy of Daniel to King Nebuchadnezzar:

44 “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

– Daniel 2.44

b) What was going through her mind?

c) What would have been going through your mind?

IV. Luke 1.34–37 • The Holy Spirit Would Cause the Conception

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” 35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.”

A. Mary understandably did not know how this could happen,

1. since she had not known a man,

2. had not had intimate relations with a man.

a) She was betrothed to Joseph, but

b) the time for the consummation of their marriage had not happened.

B. Gabriel did not rebuke her for her question because

1. she did not doubt.

2. She simply did not understand how this could happen.

C. Therefore, Gabriel laid it out simply:

1. The Holy Spirit would cause the conception.

2. That is why the boy would be known as the Son of God.

D. Then Gabriel laid out yet another amazing event:

1. Her relative Elizabeth had conceived in her old age.
 2. She was even six months along.
 - a) Those were truly amazing days.
 - b) The excitement of Mary would have overflowed out of her heart.
- E. Finally, Gabriel announced that nothing would be impossible with God.
1. Gabriel had revealed two normally impossible things,
 2. which were happening back to back:
 - a) First, a woman in her old age was six months with child.
 - b) Second, Mary would have a child without the use of an earthly father.
 - (1) Those two things alone show
 - (2) that with God,
 - (a) nothing is impossible.

V. Luke 1.38 • A Humble Servant

38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

- A. She accepted so easily what the angel said.
- B. Mary was the opposite of Elizabeth.
 1. Elizabeth in old age had conceived.
 2. Mary, although young, without a man would conceive.

VI. Luke 1.39–41 • John Leapt for Joy

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- A. She wanted to share in the joy of Elizabeth.
 1. Mary must have known that they wanted a child.

- B. Mary may have thought the wonderful events were over, but
1. they were only beginning,.
 2. The six-month old baby in Elizabeth
 - a) leapt when it heard Mary greet Elizabeth.
 - b) Then Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and
 - (1) will say marvelous things to Mary.
 - (2) Did Mary even yet comprehend what was about to happen?

VII.Luke 1.42–45 • Blessed Among Women

42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

- A. Elizabeth praised Mary, but then
1. showed her humility,
 2. asking why the mother of her lord would visit her.
 - a) The older woman knew
 - b) that she was in the presence of someone wonderful.
- B. Then Elizabeth explained what happened in her womb, and
1. because she had the Holy Spirit,
 2. she knew it was not just the regular movement of babies in the womb.
- C. Moreover, she blessed Mary because of what was about to happen.

VIII.Luke 1.46–55 • A Soul that Magnified the Lord

46 And Mary said:

**47 “My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.**

**48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.**
**49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.**
**50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.**
**51 He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
**52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And exalted the lowly.**
**53 He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.**
**54 He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of His mercy,**
**55 As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”**

A. Mary had not revealed why she went to see Elizabeth.

1. Therefore, when Elizabeth revealed
2. that she knew what was going on with Mary.
 - a) It all moved Mary
 - b) to magnify the Lord.

B. This psalm shows

1. that Mary was an educated woman,
2. that Mary was a spiritual woman, and
3. that Mary was a humble woman.

C. After all that was happening,

1. Mary's thought was to magnify the Lord.
2. Not that he himself needed magnifying, but
 - a) in her own eyes and
 - b) in the eyes of anyone
 - (1) who would hear her words,

(2) she wanted the Lord magnified.

D. Do we have a small opinion of the Lord?

1. Perhaps she thought

- a) that she did have a small or smaller opinion
- b) than she had originally thought of the Lord.

2. Gabriel had told her

- a) that with God nothing will be impossible.
- b) She was believing it.

(1) He could cause an older couple to have a child.

(2) He could cause a woman to have a child without the use of a man.

E. Do we have a small view of the Lord?

1. I suspect that some will dismiss what I say because

- a) they will say that was then, this is now,
- b) meaning that miracles of this nature happened then, but
 - (1) they do not now.

2. We may not see miracles such as these, but

- a) the Lord still works.
- b) It may be by providence,
 - (1) nevertheless, he still works.
 - (a) A miracle is turning water into wine instantaneously.
 - (b) Providence or the natural way of things
 - i) is turning water into wine
 - ii) through a process that the Lord put into place.

(2) One is quick,

(a) the other is slower.

(b) However, the result is the same:

- i) The God of heaven can still do the impossible.
 - ii) The question is, Do we believe it?
3. For example, the world's population is estimated to hit 8 billion in 2025.
- a) Yet, without miracle, the Lord feeds them all.
 - b) It is a wonder and it is amazing.
- F. Why did Mary want her soul to magnify the Lord?
- 1. He regarded the lowly state of his maidservant.
 - 2. Future generations would call her blessed.
 - 3. The Lord was mighty for what he had done for her.
 - 4. The Lord shows mercy to those who fear him.
 - 5. The Lord showed himself strong.
 - 6. The Lord scattered the proud in their imagination.
 - 7. The Lord humbles the proud and exalts the humble.
 - 8. The Lord fills the hungry with good things, but sends the rich away empty.
 - 9. The Lord remembered the fathers, especially Abraham, because
 - a) the birth of Mary's boy
 - b) would fulfill the foundational verse of the Bible:

3 "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

– Genesis 12.3

- G. Mary was highly favored, but
- 1. she will stand before God at the Judgment
 - 2. just like the rest of us, because
 - a) she was a human, a female human.
 - b) She was not a god.
 - c) She is not the object of our worship and prayers.

H. Mary was not immaculately conceived.

1. Some people say
 - a) that the virgin birth and the Immaculate Conception are the same.
 - b) No, they are not.
2. The virgin birth is refers to the fact
 - a) that she was a virgin and
 - b) yet gave birth to Jesus.
3. The Immaculate Conception is false because
 - a) it says that Mary's parents
 - b) conceived her immaculately or without passing on the sin of Adam.
 - (1) People have realized that when they teach we are born in sin,
 - (2) that would mean that Jesus was born in or with sin.
 - (a) However, to avoid that error,
 - (b) they try to cover it up by saying
 - (c) that Mary was born without sin,
 - i) hence, she had no sin,
 - ii) she did not have Adam's sin to pass on.
4. One error leads to the adoption of another error.

IX. Luke 1.56 • Mary and Elizabeth

56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

- A. That does not surprise me that Mary stayed there for three months.
- B. Mary saw herself as a servant.
- C. Therefore, an older woman with child would need help,
 1. especially at the birth.

2. She must have stayed until the birth of John,
 - a) then others would step in and
 - b) help Elizabeth.

Exhortation:

I. What do you think about all these things?

- A. Did Mary of Nazareth truly have Gabriel appear to her?
- B. Did the things he said to her truly happen?
 1. Doesn't that mean then
 2. that Jesus of Nazareth is
 - a) the Son of the Highest?
 - b) the Son of God?

II. If you believe all those things are true,

- A. what are you doing to do about it?
- B. His name is Jesus because
 1. he is our Savior,
 - a) saving us from our sins, and
 - b) saving us from eternal condemnation.
 2. Are you ready to accept those facts and
 - a) to become one of his followers?
 - b) Why not do something about it right now?