

Call Me Blessed; Luke 1:46-48

- I. Mary
 - a. From verse 46-55 is considered Mary's song of praise or Magnificat
 - b. Let's remember what Mary has been through
 - i. Pregnant by the Holy Spirit
 - ii. Her betrothed, Joseph, wants to divorce her (a betrothal was a binding contract to get married and a needed a certificate of divorce to cancel the marriage)
 - iii. The stigma of being pregnant out of wedlock was huge in first century Israel (and was in the USA until relatively recently)
 - iv. An angel visits Joseph and tells him that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit and to marry her
 - v. Mary goes to visit her relative, Elizabeth (we don't really know how they are related, but only that they are related, Luke 1:36)
 - vi. Although the Bible never gives us the age of Mary, we do know that in the Israelite culture of the first century young ladies married very soon after they were able to bear children (12-15 years old)
 - vii. Can you imagine someone so young experiencing all these things?
 - c. Mary's response to the angel is very telling of her spiritual maturity
 - d. Luke 1:38 (ESV); And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.
 - e. How do we react to things that may seem (to us anyway) hard, difficult, even oppressive?
- II. Magnify
 - a. Luke 1:46-47 (ESV); ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 - b. "Magnifies" -- to cause to be held in greater esteem through praise or deeds, exalt, glorify, magnify, speak highly of ¹
 - i. Mary's response to all of things that have happened to her is to exalt God
 - ii. She uses the word 'soul' -- "the seat and center of the inner human life" ²
 - iii. This isn't lip service to please Elizabeth -- Mary's entire being is dedicated to the service of God
 - iv. "I am the servant (*slave*) of the Lord" (Luke 1:38)
 - v. Mary was truly accepting of whatever the Lord had planned for her
 - vi. We, often, are not very accepting of the harder things in our lives -- death, pain, suffering, oppression, persecution, etc.
 - vii. We usually tend to blame God for our circumstances -- even to the point of rejecting Him

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 623.

² Ibid, 1099.

- viii. Acts 5:41–42 (ESV); ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
 - ix. James 1:2–4 (ESV); ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
 - x. I often ask myself this question when I am in the middle of a difficult time – “How can I glorify God with this situation?”
 - c. We must magnify, glorify, exalt God with every fiber of our being
- III. Blessed
- a. Luke 1:48 (ESV); for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 - b. Why did God choose a carpenter’s wife as the entrance for the Messiah (my assumption is that Jesus took on the craft of his father, Joseph)
 - i. Why didn’t he choose the betrothed of a Pharisee, a Sadducee, a member of the Sanhedrin?
 - ii. Jesus, who was with God in the beginning, left the throne of heaven and entered the earth in a very humble way – a young teenage girl in a barn with a food trough (manger) for a bed (again, my assumption is a barn because that is where the food trough would be)
 - iii. Philippians 2:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - iv. Jesus’ humble estate is the human form, not the way He entered this world
 - c. We are blessed – especially favored, happy, fortunate ³
 - d. Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV); ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 - e. We are fortunate, especially favored when we suffer and are persecuted – even though we don’t think so
 - f. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8)
 - g. Those who magnify God with their entire being (soul) are the pure in heart
- IV. Song of Praise
- a. Luke 1:46–55 (ESV); ⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

³ Ibid, 610.

For behold, from now on 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 for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 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 offspring forever.”

- b. God has done great things for us – salvation through the Messiah (through a betrothed teenage girl)
- c. Magnify the Lord with your soul
- d. Call me blessed!