

**The Second Sunday in Advent ~ Sunday, December 10, 2017**

**“The Songs of Christmas ~ Magnificat: The Song of Mary”**

**Luke 1:26-55**

**WHY MARY WAS AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE**

- She was \_\_\_\_\_
- She was \_\_\_\_\_
- She was from \_\_\_\_\_

These characteristics would have made Mary \_\_\_\_\_ by God. Yet, in greeting Mary, Gabriel calls her \_\_\_\_\_ one. Mary’s story teaches us that no matter who we are, God can \_\_\_\_\_ us for His purposes.

“Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Troubled = *diatarasso* =

The angel was telling Mary that this was no \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy because this was no ordinary baby. Son of the Most High, throne of David, never-ending kingdom were code words for \_\_\_\_\_.

God chose Mary because He knew she \_\_\_\_\_ Him completely and was willing to accept His plan for her life—even though it meant certain \_\_\_\_\_.

“I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true!” (Luke 1:38)

Zechariah was focused on \_\_\_\_\_—on the \_\_\_\_\_. Mary, however, was focused on \_\_\_\_\_. She believed the angel—that with God all things were \_\_\_\_\_!

**THE SONG OF MARY: 3 MOVEMENTS**

**The first movement in Mary’s song is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Magnify = *megaluno* =

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is so magnified, it overwhelmed every \_\_\_\_\_ association with her premarital pregnancy.

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.” (Psalm 96:8)

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” (Psalm 34:3)

Rejoice = *agalliao* =

**What do you do when you find yourself in a difficult or desperate situation? Like Mary, do you trust in God and praise Him for His goodness?**

**The second movement in Mary’s song celebrates God’s \_\_\_\_\_.** Mary was in awe of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, and not her own \_\_\_\_\_.

“He remembered us in our low estate; for his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:23)

**4 ASPECTS OF GOD’S CHARACTER**

- **God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.” (Luke 1:48)

Mindful = *epiblepo* =

God is alert, \_\_\_\_\_, aware, and paying attention—He \_\_\_\_\_ us—often when nobody else does.

“Not even a little sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father noticing it. The very hairs of your head are numbered.” (Matthew 10:30)

Mary is singing that God isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ or impartial, but is mindful of us; He’s \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“The Lord is constantly thinking about us and he will surely bless us.” (Psalm 115:2)

- **God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name...He has performed mighty deeds with his arm...” (Luke 1:49; 51)

Mary is proclaiming God’s \_\_\_\_\_—that He’s all powerful—there’s nothing He can’t do.

“Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” (Psalm 24:8)

• **God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him...He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.” (Luke 1:50; 54)

Mercy = *eleos* = God’s faithful love towards those who deserve \_\_\_\_\_. It means ‘compassion, kindness, \_\_\_\_\_ towards the miserable and afflicted; an affinity towards; a readiness to \_\_\_\_\_ those in need.’

Grace is getting what we \_\_\_\_\_ deserve; then mercy is \_\_\_\_\_ getting what we do deserve.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22)

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!” (Ephesians 2:4)

• **God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“And he has kept the promise he has made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!” (Luke 1:54-55)

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Mary’s point is very clear: God is \_\_\_\_\_ to keep His promises—God is now doing what He \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

**What do you do when you find yourself in a difficult or desperate situation? Like Mary, do you trust in God and praise Him for His goodness?**

**The third movement of Mary’s song celebrates God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

Mary’s language here is powerful and \_\_\_\_\_, and speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the gospel.

Mary knew that her boy-child would \_\_\_\_\_ all the centers of power that had been established on the earth. Mary sings of radical \_\_\_\_\_ from what the world values.

### 3 TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT

• **The \_\_\_\_\_**

“...he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.” (Luke 1:51b-52)

There is no place for \_\_\_\_\_ in the Kingdom of God.

“Pride goes before destruction; a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

“But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)

Mary is celebrating God’s great \_\_\_\_\_.

“Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:10)

• **The \_\_\_\_\_**

“he has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.” (Luke 1:53)

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Hungry = *peinao* =

Mary is singing about those who lack real bread and who are \_\_\_\_\_ hungry. She’s also singing of the deep \_\_\_\_\_ hunger that’s within all of us—a hunger that can only be fully satisfied in \_\_\_\_\_.

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

• **The \_\_\_\_\_**

“He has helped his servant Israel...” (Luke 1:54)

God helps those who are \_\_\_\_\_—who need Him; and who call on His name.

Help = *antilambano* =

“But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.” (Psalm 54:4)

The church is for people who feel their own \_\_\_\_\_.

**What do you do when you find yourself in a difficult or desperate situation? Like Mary, do you trust in God and praise Him for His goodness?**