

**Luke 1:46-55****Passage Guide**

Our God has been very good to us! Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46-55 highlights three areas where God has revealed His true nature and goodness. These truths prompt us to live revolutionary lives that are counter cultural and life giving to our city. Mary's song of praise displays a great example of how we respond to Jesus' great works in our lives. These truths will prompt us to gospel centered change as we make much of the God who has been very gracious to us all.

First, Mary praised God for what He had done for her (1:46-49). Mary was likely an uneducated woman from an incredibly small town. She did not bear any unique "super human" qualities nor did she possess any special talents that would have prompted God to choose her. Rather, God looked upon her with HIS favor, choosing to use her in His plan. In this we see we see God exalting a lowly woman and bringing humiliation to those who had worldly power but who were not true servants of God. Mary must have been overwhelmed by God's choosing of her to bring about the long awaited Messiah.

We too have been conquered by the greatness of God's grace. He has looked upon us with favor in the sending of Jesus. We did not deserve it nor could we ever earn His favor. Therefore, we also rejoice with Mary in the coming of our Redeemer Jesus. He has liberated us from sin and death. This prompts us to magnify Him because He has set us free! He has been very good to us in bringing about salvation and abundant life through Him. We too join in Mary's song celebrating what He has done for us. How should we respond to God's work in our lives?

Second, Mary praised God for His mercy (Luke 1:50-53). Mary acknowledged that God had been good and very merciful to her and the entire world through the coming of Jesus. Mary's people had waited many years for the coming of the Messiah. She had been taught stories about the coming Savior and eagerly anticipated His arrival. She never could have guessed that God would use her in fulfilling the promise He had made to her people. She acknowledged that this work in her life was solely based on the mercy and grace of the Father. Mary's only role in the process was to praise and worship God for the greatness He had done in her life.

God's mercy is also evident in our lives. We rejoice with Mary that our Father looked upon us with mercy and sent Jesus to take our place. We deserved death and condemnation, but the Father showed us mercy. This mercy is not reserved for royalty or people of high esteem. Where has God shown us mercy? How does this mercy change the way we live our lives?

Finally, Mary praised God for His faithfulness in keeping his promise. The coming of Jesus fulfilled God's promise of sending the Messiah to crush sin and Satan (Genesis 3:15). It reinforced that God is faithful in bringing about salvation for His people. We rejoice with Mary knowing God has brought about the salvation that He promised many years ago. We rejoice knowing our God is faithful. We can live our lives knowing we have been completely restored before the Father, that He will never leave us and that He will finish the work He began in each one of us (Romans 8:28-39). Seasons of doubt, struggles and despair will come into all of our lives. Our peace is Christ, whose faithfulness shows us that even in the darkest moments God will never leave us. He will be faithful to finish the work He began in each one of us.

God has taken us from corrupt beings to beautiful and holy. He has accomplished this by sending Jesus to take on the

entire wrath that was due to us. It is by His extraordinary grace and mercy that we stand beautiful and holy before the Father. Only through Jesus have we been made holy. Therefore, let us worship Jesus during Advent remembering His great work on our behalf. Let us thank our Father for pouring out mercy and grace as we long for the day when He will return. Let us join with Mary in not being able to contain the great song that He has given to us. And may these truths about Jesus prompt us to live revolutionary lives that bring about total transformation to our city.

**Application Questions**

Discuss some of the great things God has done in your life? Where has He shown you favor (where favor means being used by God for His purposes)? How has His favor allowed you to make much of Him?

In what areas has God been merciful to you? How do you respond to others in light of God's mercy to you?

How does knowing God keeps His promises prompt us to live for Him today?

**Prayer**

Take time to thank God for being good to us and having mercy on humanity.

Ask God to help us treat people in the same way He has treated all of us (with grace and mercy).

Pray for our church for the coming year. Ask for God's favor as He builds His kingdom.