

Act 4 -- Wow?

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

In this Series, We Have Learned That . . .

1. The events PRECEDING the Christmas story are critical to UNDERSTANDING and appreciating Christmas.
2. Jesus must be the FOCUS of Christmas for us to celebrate properly.

Mary's Song

1. Mary was DEVOTED to the Lord and worshipped naturally.
"And Mary said," . . . Indicates an UNSCRIPTED response.
2. Mary was DILIGENT in the Word -- Most of these statements are QUOTES from the Old Testament. How did she know these?
Would you know the Scriptures this well, to be able to write a Biblical hymn from memory?
3. Mary was DISCIPLINED. This statement was somehow RECORDED to be included in Scriptures.
How did Luke get this song to include in Scriptures?
4. Mary was DETERMINED to believe God, even though there had been no confirmation of the MIRACLE (except for Elizabeth's greeting).

What Does Mary Teach Us About Worship?

1. I can worship the Lord when I am in RIGHT relationship with Him.
 - a. Worship is very PERSONAL. You can't WATCH worship!
Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
 - b. Worship involves PREPARATION and it PERVADES your being.
Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

c. Worship is PERPETUAL.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

d. Worship recognizes the PERSON being worshiped.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; . . . 49 . . . — holy is his name.

e. Worship can only happen when there has been PARDON.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

2. I can worship the Lord when I HUMBLE MYSELF before Him.

Luke 1:48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name.

a. She calls herself a "BOND-SLAVE."

b. She recognized her NEED of a SAVIOR.

c. She refers to her "humble state" or "LOWLINESS."

Luke 1:48 Because He looked on the lowliness of His maid-servant, For, lo, henceforth call me happy shall all the generations, (Young's)

d. She knew she was UNWORTHY but had received GREAT things.

3. I can worship the Lord when I recognize God's GOODNESS and am THANKFUL for how He has BLESSED me and USED me.

Luke 1:48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name.

We should be unsatisfied with our state of HOLINESS, but be satisfied with the way He has DESIGNED us and with the plan that He has set BEFORE us.

You can't worship God if you wish you were SOMEONE else, or had someone else's GIFTS or LIFE. It indicates that you don't believe He knew what was BEST for you!

4. I can worship when I realize that His PLAN extends to the whole WORLD. He is a SOVEREIGN God.

Luke 1:50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

On This Christmas Day . . .

How does MY worship COMPARE to Mary's?

What one aspect of my PRACTICE of worship needs some work?