

“Mary’s Magnificat, Our Magnificat” (Lu. 1:46-55)

1. Lord’s Mindfulness (46-48 cf. 54-55)

- a. Mary’s personal praise first acknowledges His mindfulness of her humble state (48) and goes on to acknowledge His workings in Israel’s corporate history (54).
- b. She understood God’s overarching plan involved her in a very significant and personal way – indeed in an indispensable way! Are you indispensable to His plan? Faithfulness > success.
- c. Mindfulness is indicative of His faithfulness (integrity and assurance). God does not repent and thus what He promises comes to pass! Isa. 9:6-7 also Gen. 12:2-3.
- d. She understood that what God is doing in history is not a dichotomy re: individuals and nations. In all of the seeming chaos, He is peacefully orchestrating the most certain victory for **and** through His nation of priests – each of which is critical to His Kingdom.

2. Lord’s Might (49)

- a. W/o might, His mindfulness means little to us.
- b. Again, Mary magnifies His Might which has secured her honored role and His “holy name.”
- c. We could add another “M” word for His holy name viz. ‘majesty.’ Only One whose name (i.e. perfect character and essence) has both the perfect will and might to make things right!
- d. God is the mighty Warrior (Deut. 10:17-18; Ps. 24:8; Isa. 10:21*; 42:13; Zeph. 3:17)**. He is the compassionate Warrior who defends His true remnant*!

3. Lord’s Mercy (50)

- a. V. 50 is a bit of a transition wherein Mary transitions from singing about God’s priority of her to include that of His Kingdom!
- b. “His mercy is on those who fear Him” i.e. remnant. This obviously includes her, as she was in a lowly state having been instantly put in controversy being found pregnant before her marriage consummation. However, she was a humble servant who trusted YHWH and said “thy will be done.”
- c. This mercy is also obviously imparted to all those of every generation who fear Him for He is no respecter of persons. Jesus’ genealogy includes mention of a Pagan prostitute! Note how Matthew gratuitously adds, “whose mother was Rahab.”
- d. This does not mean that prostitutes can praise God for their choice of profession. It means that those who have been trafficked can be healed and those who chose professions of sin can repent and be healed and reemployed by God for His Kingdom. The God of Scripture is a merciful God! I can sing my own Magnificat as can any of the redeemed, for we have been brought out of the mire of sin and clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
- e. I remember 24 years ago singing a new song unto the LORD using a contemporary song’s melody and rhythm, yet inserting my own earnest words of praise and wonder at His mercy and grace imparted to me a wretched sinner! In fact, it’s kind of what Mary did. She borrowed from Hannah and other psalmists to sing her own personalized song of praise to the mighty/merciful God (1 Sam. 2:1-10; Deut. 7:7-8; Ps. 103:17; 107:9; Prov. 3:34 cf. Isa. 2:11-12, 17). Also see Warrior references above.**

4. Lord’s Methods (51b-53)

- a. Employing both knowledge of God’s corporate and personal revelation, Mary acknowledged God’s mindfulness, His might, and His mercy, and the latter portion of her song reports of His wonderful Methods.
- b. Poetic justice is derived from God! He is the great reverser. He takes the prostitutes, drunks, and even tax collectors; and makes them His priests and kings!
- c. Conversely, He takes the proud, self-celebratory ones who exploit the weak and poor and sends them away empty.

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- d. This is where our faith comes in. We currently see the wicked prosper but we know their end!
- e. His motives are for salvation and thus His objectives for scattering the proud are for their repentance. The proud need to be broken and realize that God is not going to fit into their perverted plans, preferences, and priorities, but seeks to incorporate them into His magnificent plans which include the following: quickening us via our dying to self, exalting us via our surrender, acquiring everlasting gain via self-sacrifice, true purpose through submission, peace via not backing down, preservation via vulnerability, and greatness via humility.
- f. Until we have been made low we cannot be lifted up. Mat. 5:3-5.
- g. Alistair Begg points out that, “The greatness of God is not revealed in his isolation from us; the greatness of God is revealed in his intimacy with us.” He goes on to explain how the ‘higher’ we rise the more distant we become e.g. longer drive ways, security fences, secretaries, and servants all separate the achiever from those who would come near him.
- h. Isn’t it magnificent that the eternal, almighty, righteous God condescends to provide a way we can commune with Him. He knows your inner most thoughts, fears, desires, responsibilities, disappointments, and failures. He also cares for your hopes, aspirations, goals, and pleasures.
- i. He is an almighty transcendent God who is working out a universal plan. He is also a personal intimate God who calls individuals to enjoy Him and to participate in that plan.
- j. Since God designed you and wants to employ you, doesn’t it stand to reason that He designed you to enjoy the fruit of knowing, serving, and fellowshipping with Him?

LORD, may Your people never cease to praise You in public and in private, corporately and personally, radically and wisely! To put it softly, it’s been a mess out there in 2020! Much has happened this calendar year and such has tested most, awakened many, and revealed hidden truths. People have had total paradigm shifts and some have been carefully considering much. No matter if you have experienced significant change or simply fought to stand your ground; if you are a Christian, you have not been shaken from the truth of God’s Word, plan, and promises. God will come again as sure as He descended to the lower parts of earth on Christmas day. And when He does, He’ll personally/tenderly wipe away all of our tears. Where will you be on that day? Will you be rejoicing with the meek who bowed their wills to His glorious plan, or will you be moaning with those who refused to bow and rather cling to their self-promoting plans?