

Christmas According To Luke

Mary Rejoices

Luke 1:39-56

Grace Fellowship Church / Ryan Fultz / December 10, 2017

1. The Good News of Jesus Compels Belief

Mary BELIEVED!!!

vs. 38 – “Behold I am the servant of the Lord; **let it be to me according to your word**”

vs. 45 – “Blessed is she who **believed** that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

“Do we know anything of this precious faith? This, after all, is the great question that concerns us. Do we know anything of the faith of God’s elect, the faith which is of the operation of God? Let us never rest till we know it by experience. Once knowing it, let us never cease to pray that our faith may grow exceedingly. Better a thousand times be rich in faith than rich in gold. Gold will be worthless in the unseen world to which we are traveling. Faith will be owned in that world before God the Father and the holy angels. When the great white throne is set, and the books are opened, when the dead are called from their graves, and receiving their final sentence, the value of faith will at length be fully known. Men will learn then, if they never learned before, how true are the words, “Blessed are they that believed.”

J.C.Ryle “Expository Thoughts on Luke”

Have you believed? Has hearing about the person and work of Jesus resulted in genuine belief in your life?

2. The Good News of Jesus Demands Worship

Mary’s belief explodes into worship! She cannot contain it or keep it inside.

This was not simply a made-up song though; it was dripping with scripture!

“Mary is so steeped in Scripture that when she breaks out in praise, the words that come naturally to her lips are the words of Scripture. Being a young woman, she probably loved the stories of the Old Testament women of faith like Sarah, Deborah, Hannah, Ruth, and Abigail. What an admonition to us all, both women and men (young and old—Mary probably was not over 15): to steep our minds and hearts in the Scriptures day and night so that the words and thoughts of Scripture fill our mouths as naturally as they did Mary’s.”

John Piper “Meditation on the Magnificent”

Mary worships with **Thanksgiving**.

Mary is deeply thankful that God would notice and use her.

“looked on” Mary

- “had regard” NASB
 - “looked with favor” HCSB
 - “he has been mindful”

“This is what God is like. He is mindful. He is personally involved with humanity. He has promised to make blessing, fulfillment and security available to “all peoples on earth.” The greatness of God is not revealed in his isolation from us; the greatness of God is revealed in his intimacy with us.”

Alilstair Begg “Christmas Playlist”

He has done great things!

Mary worships with **Praise**.

- Mercy
- Strong and Mighty
- Keeps His Promises

Has your belief moved you to this kind of worship? Does your life overflow in thanksgiving and praise to God for all He has done?

3. The Good News of Jesus Offers Hope

Jesus is a continuation of God’s plan of salvation. Jesus is not God’s grand audible or change of plan.

“She celebrates the God who remembers his covenant. Luke has an eye on history. He sees that the birth of Jesus does not happen in a vacuum, but ‘in the fullness of time’. When Jesus is born, he is born after many promises from God. Covenants have been made between God and man. The promise that had been made to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is now coming into fullness in space and time. ‘He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful.’”

R.C. Sproul “A Walk With God: Luke”

When Mary says, “My Soul Magnifies the Lord,” she understood the reality that Jesus the Messiah was coming.

Christmas season can be tough for many different reasons. Will you allow the good news of Jesus to be the blessing, the hope, and the cause for great rejoicing in your life?

“Even if you never experienced another blessing from God or sensed his presence again as long as you lived, you would have no justification to do anything but live each day in praise. You could do nothing but live in gratitude to God for what he has already done in your life. We easily forget, but we are fortunate that God does not forget. When he makes a promise, he keeps it. Mary understood that as she sang.”

R.C. Sproul “A Walk With God: Luke”