

Christmas According to Luke

Mary Rejoices

Luke 1:39-56

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Dec 10, 2017

1. It's not Mary's maturity, but her childlike faith that drives her to action!

A. Childlike faith drives us to “**come and see**” what God is doing.

Luke 1:38-40 ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. ³⁹In those days **Mary arose and went with haste** into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Psalms 66:5 ⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

B. Childlike faith drives us to “**go and tell**” what God has done.

Luke 1:46-49 ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Although we're called to grow beyond our childish ways, God also calls us to remain childlike in our hearts when it comes to how we relate to Him.

Mark 10:15 ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, **whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.**”

Matt. 18:3,4

³ ...“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever **humbles himself like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

What about you? When were you most active in your walk with the Lord? In what ways do you need to return to the childlike faith you’ve outgrown?

2. It’s not Mary’s words, but the Words of God that are on her heart and lips!

A. Knowing God’s Word allows us to encourage other believers.

Rom. 15:4

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and **through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

B. Knowing God’s Word gives us freedom helps us understand God’s will.

John 8:31,32

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

What about you? How has your understanding of God’s Word impacted your life? How has it enabled you to encourage others? How do you hope God will use you and His Word in 2018?

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group discussion:

- (A) Mary believed immediately, with childlike faith & trust. Zechariah believed eventually, in spite of doubt. Which can you more easily relate to—Mary or Zechariah?
- (B) Who do you know that exhibits a childlike faith similar to that of Mary’s?
- (C) What connection is there between one’s childlike faith and prayer?
- (D) What connection is there between one’s childlike faith and praise & worship?
- (E) Consider writing your own “*magnificat*,” with words that magnify the Lord. Write 3-5 things about God (what He is like, what He has done). Read them aloud to the Lord this week, praising Him from your heart. Perhaps you can share it with someone else to magnify the Lord in their eyes, as well!