

The Signs of Christmas: Baby on Board

Spring Green Community Church - Sermon Notes

December 16, 2018

The Signs of Christmas Series



Luke 1:46-55

Mary's song – traditionally
has been called the "Magnificant"

Luke 1:46-48

Mary's soul praises
Mary's spirit rejoices

Why does Mary praise and rejoice?

48 - For he took notice...

49 - ...He has done great things for me

50 - He shows mercy...

51 - His mighty arm has done...
He has scattered...

52 - He has brought down...

53 - He has filled...

54 - He has helped...

55 - For he made...

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Study Questions

12.16.18

1. What stood out to you, encouraged you, or challenged you from the sermon on Sunday?

2. Mary's song of praise in these verses has traditionally been called the "Magnificat," which is the Latin word for "magnifies." The dictionary definition of "magnify" is "to make something appear larger than it is, especially with a lens or microscope; to extol or glorify." In what ways does this definition fit, or not fit, Mary's heart of praise toward her God?

3. Mary's song of praise strongly resembles Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Read both. What are some similarities? For what miraculous reason do each of these women burst with praise and thanksgiving? (You may need to read Hannah's background in 1 Samuel 1.)

4. Mary was chosen among women to be the mother of Jesus. Her song of praise may reveal some of the heart and character God recognized as worthy of this honor. How does Mary refer to herself? (vs. 48) Why is this an important attitude to have in praise? In prayer?

5. Mary sings that He “took notice” of her. What do you think this means? How does it feel to you to be “noticed” by God?

6. Mary continues, making her praiseworthy God the subject of each sentence of her song. What are some of the actions God has taken for His people, Israel? Which one of these has special meaning to you in your life today?

7. Why does God desire our praise? What effect does praising Him have on us?

8. Peter wrote, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him* who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). What are some of the excellencies of God you can proclaim in your life?

9. John Piper writes, “The whole duty of the Christian can be summed up in this: feel, think, and act in a way that will make God look as great as He really is. Be a telescope for the world of the infinite starry wealth of the glory of God.” Write your own psalm of praise, or borrow one of David’s, and read it out loud. Let a feeling of praise permeate your life and draw others to God’s greatness.

Next week’s scripture: Matthew 1:18-25