

Title: Blessed Among Women

Text: Luke 1:39-56

Take your Bibles and turn to Luke chapter 1. I want to look this ~~Christmas~~ Sunday at a statement that has caused some controversy among christians. That statement - "Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

8 How many of you have the name of Mary? Let's see your hands. Oh, many of you do. You know, if you look up the name "Mary" in the dictionary, you will discovery ~~several words~~ *it means*. "BITTER"....Now, you must admit that if your name is MARY that is not really a turn on...Right?...That your name means bitter. Some say, "GRIEF" "HARDACK" "SORROW", so forth....

But, you know, Mary is really a wonderful Biblical name. It is rooted in the Hebrew word "MYRRH".. Now, "Myrrh" has a beautiful fragrance. It is one of the sweetest smelling perfurms known.

But, what you have to do with Myrrh is to crush it before the smell can come out. And that is how the name "mary" came to us. Someone who is ~~crushed~~ crushed. The idea is through "sorrow". And then the beauty comes out.

And of course it is a beautiful type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even the Lover of Solomon in SONG OF SOLOMON said: "Beloeved" speaking of Solomon who is a type of Christ, "My beloved is like a bundle of myrrh."

And it use to be a common custom in ancient times that when a woman <sup>who</sup> was in love would put a little bundle of myrrh around her neck.

So, anyway "Mary" is a beautiful name. And we are thinking about this lady today. MARY...BLESSED AMONG WOMEN...

Luke chapter 1 beginning with Vs 39....(READ Vs 39-56)

Join me in a moment of prayer

Well, MARRY is specail. No question about it. But, as you know there are religious groups that feel that Mary is really special. They call her the "mother of God". And you can understand why. Because God became flesh in Mary's womb. Is she not therefore the mother of God is the question. ~~In order for Mary to be the mother of God, as the reasoning goes for those who believe~~  
*Now, We don't believe that as I will explain in a moment.*

In order for Mary to be the mother of God though, as the reasoning goes, it seems highly unlikely to those who believe that, that Mary could have been a sinner. Because how could she have had a baby in her womb, who the Bible calls sinless? And so these religious groups go on to teach that Mary is not only the mother of God, but she was also without sin. When Mary was conceived she was conceived without any sin. And therefore, she could become the mother of God.

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Now, as you know, if you are thinking this through right now. WHAT ABOUT MARY'S MOTHER? And if Mary's mother is also without sin, how far back to you take it? Everyone in the line of Mary would have to be conceived without sin.

Don't misunderstand what I am saying. I believe that Mary is special. I don't happen to believe that we should pray to her. Or, that she in anyway can interceded for any of us. But, I do believe that she is special. The Bible says so. She is blessed among women. Now, in what sense is *Mary special*

~~is the big argument and big debate. I would like to show you just two things which brings that out in this text.~~

*I would like you to see this*  
 (1) ~~One, is the excitement of Elizabeth. And by the way, don't think that this~~ *and boy was she excited*

~~is any passive response.~~ Look at Vs 42..It says that "she cried out with a loud voice."

Now, when Mary came to her house, Elizebeth didn't say, "Hi, Mary, what's happening?"....That wasn't it....She literally cried out....."BLESSED AMONG WOMEN ARE YOU".....

And Mary probable thought...WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?....This woman was really turned on.

(IA) *So, First of all, lets*  
And I want you for a moment to look at the source of her excitement.

What really turned her on? What made her shout at the top of her voice: MARY YOU ARE BLESSED AMONG WOMEN. What made her so excited. I believe it was two things.

(1) *babys*  
One, the babies response in her womb. This is very unusually. ~~Let's take a look at~~ Vs 41..."AND IT CAME ABOUT THAT WHEN ELIZABETH HEARD MARY'S GREETING."

Now, the Bible doesn't record what Mary said in greeting.

Mary probably just said, "Hi, Elizabeth, how are you?"...But, what ever it was that she said, all of a sudden the baby within her leaps in her womb. That is what the Bible says.

Look at Vs 44..."For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy."

Ladies, have you ever had a baby leap in your womb? *if you have ever had a baby* *sure you have* ~~Now, I know that there are a lot of folks who make fun of the Bible at this point. They say, "Hay, there is no way that babies are jumping."~~

~~I am not so sure.~~ As a Father, I ~~remember~~, I remember our first child. The baby had done notheing. My wife is well along. Oh, he had moved, but not very much. Then one night as I was snggled up to my pregent wife, all of a sudden....WHAM!!!!!!.....

I said, what did you hit me for?" She said, "I dādn't hite you." Well, some body kitted me.....

And all of a sudden I realize that there was something in her womb that is really active....And from then on, boy, he was kitting all the time...

*This child Leaped*  
So, ~~I am not so sure.~~ But, you know, this baby is leaping for another reason. Now, I know that some of you are going to get bomed out over this. But, please, stay with it.

Look back ~~at~~ <sup>pleas, in</sup> chapter 1. *at Vs 15* And I want to show you that this is one of the most unusally babies in the history of the World. In fact Jesus said of this person, that there hasn't been a greater person in all of history than this person. And you can understand why when you read Luke 1:15.

Now, his Dad's name is Zacharias. His mother's name is Elizabeth. They are old. They are barren. They cann't have kids. Abd God intervines and gives them a child. And everybody is amazed including Zacharias and Elizabeth. In Vs 15, here is what the angel told Zacharias about the kid that Elizabeth was going to have. *Vs 15* ~~It~~ says "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit."

NOW, WATCH THIS....."WHILE YET IN HIS MOTHER'S WOMB"

You talk about an incredible baby. This baby was filled with the Holy Spirit in ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> mother's womb. Luke 1:44 says that "he leaped for joy."

Do you know why a lot of people don't like this text? I will tell you why. Because if the baby had joy, he had emotional response. Therefore, he had a soul and a body in the womb. If the baby was able to be filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb then he is a real person....WOW!!!

A fantastic text to prove that life begins at conception and not a birth. And I am not talking here about Jesus. I am talking about John the Baptist. He was filled with the Holy Spirit while he was in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. And when that baby leaped for joy it was no small deal. It was not even like my son who kicked me. It was greater. You say, "HOW DO YOU KNOW?"

Because there are a lot of words for "joy". And the word that was used here is unusual. And let me try and explain.

In Luke 1:44 when it says the "baby leaped in my womb for joy" I want to show you the usage of that word to show you that it is a very strong word of excitement, of thrill, where people actually lose control of their emotions because they are so thrilled over what has happened. LET ME SHOW YOU.

Turn, please, to I Peter chapter 4...I Peter chapter 4....Do you want to know how excited that baby was just at the sound of the voice of Mary, Compare it with the usage, here, in I Peter chapter 4 verse 13..It says.."but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing"...Now, that is a word for joy, but it is not the word that I am talking about.

"So that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice". That is another good word for rejoice, but that is not our word.

It is the last word .."WITH EXULTATION." That is our word. Same word  
LUK-1:44

One guy said.."filp out"...What ever...You are going to really have joy in your life when you see Jesus Christ. Did you know that?. Some of you are going to lose control. A lot of you demonstrate control. Have you ever met someone and you tell them a funny story and they don't even smile?....

You know...Some people seem to have it all together. So controlled...

Well, one day you are going to lose control. And do you know what over?

WHEN YOU SEE JESUS....

We think we know now. Are you kidding! Why, when we see the Lord the sight of him is going to be so incredible we are going to be losing control completely in joy and admiration. We are going to explode with enthusiasm. That is what that little baby did in the womb.

Look over at the book of Jude. Jude, the little book before the book of Revelation. Here we see another usage of the word. And again, it is interesting, it is about the second coming.

Jude 24...It tells you what you are going to feel, what you are going to experience when you stand in the presence of God. Jude 24...Don't ever be sorry for a loved one who died and went home to be with the Lord. The Bible talks about an abundant entry. And if you want to know what it is like to be in the presence of the Lord... "to be absent from the body and present with the Lord"...read this. If you want to cry, cry about yourself that we have to remain here on earth. But don't cry over believers who have gone home to be with the Lord. HAY..READ THIS..JUDE 24..'To him who is able to keep you from failing and to bring you faultless and joyful before his glorious presence.."

The word "joyful" is our same word. It means an "explosion of joy". You are so thrilled. It is a celebration.

AT WHAT? At standing in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Now, back to Luke 1. That is what the Bible says about John the Baptist while he was in the womb of Elizabeth. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF Elizabeth's excitement that made her say: "You are the most blessed of all women."

Well, the first source was her own baby, <sup>response</sup> who was filled with the Holy Spirit. But that is not all.

(2 B) The second thing which is stated very clearly for us in Vs 41. And that is the Holy Spirit's control. <sup>Elizabeth's life</sup> Vs 41 says .."When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby <sup>leaped</sup> ~~moved~~ within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." Now, I want to comment on that for a moment.

Elizabeth was filled ~~or controlled~~ by the Holy Spirit and then made this remarkable statement about Mary. I believe that explains how Elizabeth knew what she knew about Mary. I mean..after all...who told her? Unless it was direct revelation from God.

How did she know that Mary was conceived of the Holy Spirit? How did she know that? How would she know any of this if it wasn't by direct revelation from God. This woman, Elizabeth, was filled with the Holy Spirit. So what she said was under the control of the Holy Spirit. It was what God wanted to be said. And now it is here. Guaranteed in its truthfulness because God the Holy Spirit controlled it.

Look over at Vs 67. The same thing happens to her husband. Vs 67 says, "that John's father, Zechariah" or Elizabeth's husband.. "was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied."

What was the result of Zechariah being filled with the Holy Spirit.  
ANSWERED: He prophesied.

Now, some of you have the idea that when you prophecy, you sort of make some thing up, or, it came to you out of the blue...NOT TRUE..

To prophecy means to "proclaim...to speak forth". And it doesn't necessarily mean to "predict" the future. As a matter of fact, if you will look at this passage carefully you will notice that there isn't one new thing that Zechariah says., Most of it is scripture that is in the O.T.

But he prophesied. *But the point is that* ~~so that~~, every thing he said was accurately said and accurately reported. He was controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The same thing is said about the writers of scripture. 2 Peter 1 tells us that these men did not give us these writing out of their own private interpretations. But "holy men of God spoke as they were controlled or filled or ~~driving~~ by the Holy Spirit of God."

Accurate testimony of what God wants to be said. The reason I am telling you all of this is for this reason: WHAT IS SAID HERE ABOUT MARY HAS ITS SOURCE IN GOD, HIMSELF.

Don't tell me that Mary isn't special. She is special. Now, there are some thing we don't believe about Mary that other folks say the Bible teaches. I don't think she is the MOTHER OF GOD. I don't believe that. God doesn't have a beginning. By supernatural conception He was placed in the womb of Mary. But, she doesn't ~~become the~~ Mother God.

And I don't believe Mary is with out sin. She is a sinner just like you and I. ~~As I shall show you before we are though.~~

But, on the other hand there are some of us who knowing those extremes have almost treated Mary as though she is just like everyone else. NOT SO.

Oh, she is like everyone else in that she was born a sinner. She had the same problems that you and I have. But, there is something special about this woman, that God uses to present to us as an example of our own leaning and application. SO...DON'T MISS THAT POINT. She is special. And it came from God.

So, Elizabeth was controlled by the Holy Spirit in what she said. And she said it with a loud voice. She was excited. But the source of the excitement was not only her own baby who was filled with the Holy Spirit in her womb, but also the fact that she was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>and</sup> God is in control of this whole thing. So, what was said is just what God said and what God wants us to believe and know about Mary. She is truly blessed among all the women of the world.

(A) Now, let's take a look at the <sup>significance</sup> importance of this excitement for a moment.

(READ Vs 41-45)

Now, I would like you to notice two things, here, as to the significance of Elizabeth's excitement in saying that Mary is blessed.

(1 B) Number one, Elizabeth recognizes her relationship to Mary's baby.

Vs 43. "Why should this great thing happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me."

Elizabeth recognized, and by divine revelation obviously, no one else told her, she knew that the baby being conceived in the womb of Mary, was non other than her Lord. And that is a tremendous statement. She recognized ~~that~~ immediately who this baby was. *He Was Lord*

(2 B) And secondly, she realized why Mary was so blessed. And she gives two reasons. But, first, let me tell you something about this word "blessed."

It involves the traditional Catholic Protestant argument over who Mary is. Under the Catholic argument it is that the word "blessed" assumes that Mary is in a state of being blessed at that point she is a blessed woman. That is internally, inwardly, therefore, she is without sin. SHE IS BLESSED.

And the Protestant view: We don't treat Mary as being without sin. I believe you know that. And we believe that the blessing is caused by some thing out side of Mary. Not Mary in and off herself.

In dealing with this problem I have to tell you something....

One in Vs 42 the word "blessed" which is used twice, is not the same word that is in Vs 45. And this is a very important distinction.

The change of words was not made accidently. The change is made to deminstrate a very important point as to who Mary is. And about how blessed she really is.

In the first cause, in Vs 42, the word "<sup>blessed</sup>blessing" means to "speak well of of And it is dealing with something that happened in terms of product or active or result. You speak well of the person because of something that was done. A reputation is therefore granted to the person. Blessed are you. It is in what we call the present tense meaning you are "continually being blessed."

And I say to the Catholics in all concern and sincerety, I am not trying to put them down, But I am saying in all kindness that if Mary, at this point, is in the condition that you say she is in, you cannot have a woman that is continually being blessed. It would have to be fixed. "BLESSED" and nothing could change it.

But in this particular case he is saying that you are continually being blessed. And it is even passive voice meaning "from the outside." Not in and of yourself. ~~She~~ <sup>she</sup> is being blessed by God continually because of what?...

Well, the first thing that is said, in Vs 42, is "the fruit of her womb." Why is Mary being continually blessed? Just aike you and I are being continually blessed. And the answer is because of the one who is in her womb. Which is what Vs 42 says... "BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB." Non other than Jesus Christ who is the <sup>only</sup> one who can bring that blessing. (Everybody following?) That is the first thing that we have to get clear.

So, when Elizabeth said of Mary .. "Blessed are you among woman". She is saying that you are continually being blessed by God, Mary, because of the one who comes out-off your womb. Namely - Jesus - who is the only one who can bless you



(2) <sup>reason</sup> Now the second thing is very important down in Vs 45. The second reason she is blessed is because of her faith in God's Word. Not because of her being somebody special in the sense of being sinless, or the Mother of God NO!! She is j blessed because of her faith in God's Word. Look at it again.

*The meaning of this word?.. "blessed"*

Vs 45..And blessed, (and here the word has changed) ..You ask: Well, what is

Do you remember the sermon on the mount. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." And so forth.

That word "blessed" is this word. And in Matthew chapter 5 those are statements of facts about believers. Those who are poor in spirit...meaning those who know they need the Lord are blessed.

Those who are pure in heart, they are blessed. And those who are peacemakers are blessed. And the word is referring to an internal inward condition. A position that we have before God because we believe in Him.

*du* Now, that is the word that some people hope is in Vs 42 of Luke one to prove that Mary in and of herself is special. SORRY! IT IS NOT.

*SO-* But at this point you have to use the word ...NOW WHY?... Because in this case Mary is belesed in the same way that you and I are blessed. HOW?..By believing in the Lord Jesus. Then we are "BLESSED." We are in this state.. internally and inwardly. <sup>our</sup> ~~our~~ spiritual condition is blessed because of faith and trust in God's Word. AND THAT DEAR FRIENDS, IS A WONDERFUL PRINCIPLE TO APPLY TO YOUR LIFE.

*Rephrase* " <sup>VS 45</sup> She who believed is in the Aorist tense. Which means it happened at a point in time. And that tells us that Mary became a believer in a moment of time. She accepted the truth of what the angel told her about the Son that would be born. And she believed it. And she believed that it was going to be a fulfillment of what God said. THAT IS WHAT THIS TEXT SAYS..

Look back, please at chapter 1 verse 28. When the angel came to Mary he said, "Hail, favored one." God has bestowed some grace and favor on you. "The Lord is with you." She is troubled. And she pondered what was going on.

Then the angel says , "Don't be afraid." He tells her about Jesus.  
Then Vs 34.."Mary said, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Now, you realize, that up untill this point there had never been a virgin birth? There is no evidence or example to show Mary that this could happen. She said, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her and said, "God is going to do it. The Holy Spirit of God is going to do it."

And I love this. Do you know why Mary is special? Listen to these words.  
Vs 38.."Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; be it done to me,"

That right there is a statement of submission to the will of God. A bond slave never questioned their master at all. If they did question, they might receive the penalty of death.

So that statement indicates Mary's submission to the Lord. And then she adds real teeth to the statement when she said, "be it done to me according to your word."

Now, all the details of <sup>how</sup> ~~two~~ this was going to be done, biological and physical, was not given to Mary. The only thing that was said to her was... "that God the Holy Spirit would do this in your womb."

And Mary immediately says.."Hay! I am your bonds slave, do it!"  
<sup>Dear Friend</sup>  
~~Ladies~~, if you could put yourself back into Mary's shoes, I doubt very much whether Mary understood the virgin birth at that point...I doubt it seriously.

What she is saying is that she is submitting to the word of God. She didn't know how it was going to happen. But she believed God's Word.

Don't you see why Mary is special. And why she is a testimony for all history to follow of what it means to believe God. There are many things in this Bible that you and I do not understand. But if God said it. That should settle it. We should believe it. Even though we do not understand it.

Let me give you an example. Suppose that God said in his word to go to the end of a pier and jump off into the ocean. Now, let's suppose that God really said that.....

Let me tell you what would happen. Some of us would get out on the end of that pier, and say, "Well, there will probably be a boat here to pick us up." Others would say, "Hay! I am not going to jumb off."

And I will tell you that many of you would not even go down to that "pier Praise Gathering"...You wouldn't be caught dead there. "Hay those christians are nuts do that.

But what if God said it. And no one could explain it. But you knew that God had said it. And of course there would be those at the end of the pier saying, "I am not going to jumb off until I hear all the interpretations. I am sure there has got to be another interpretation."

And then some of us would look <sup>at</sup> the foolish brothers and sisters who just ran and jumbed off the end of the pier.

*Oh, Times*  
~~Mary~~, many times we do not know what we are doing when we demand that God prove it or show it do us before we do it.

LISTEN, IF HE SAID IT...THEN WE OUGHT TO DO IT.. I may not be interpreting it correctly...but if He said it, then I ought to do it.

The heart that has been redeemed is a heart of faith and trust and confidence in God's word. MARY BELIEVED. Therefore, Elizabeth said "You are blessed, Mary, because you believed, that God would do what ~~he~~ he said,."

And there is no eample to fall back on...no illustration...nothéng... PRAISE GOD FOR MARY'S EXAMPLE. It is tremendous.

*SDP*  
( ) Well the excitment of Elizabeth was a wonderful thing, but there is a second matter which is the exaltation of Mary which I believe continues to bring out how special she really is. Please look at it beginning in Vs 46. This is called the MAGNIFICENT OF MARY. KJ says "My soul magnifies"...Here in the NAS it says "My soul exalts the Lord." (READ VS 46-48)

( ) Now, there is really three movements of thought here in this passage. And the first one we have just read in Verses 46 to 48. And I think the point here is that Mary REJOICED IN HER DEPENDENCE UPON THE LORD. And in this she is a blessed woman..an example for all of us. And I want to show you that in several ways...HOW MARY IN Vs 46 to 48 is rejoicing in her dependence upon the Lord.

(1 ) Number one, there was a true inward response. It wasn't just outward. In the outward circumstance. The text says .."MY SOUL EXALTS....MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR."

And I would like to say to all of you here who have a lot of religious background and knowledge and you know some of these facts and may even intelligentially agree with them, that that doesn't necessarily mean that you are a born again believer. It is a serious thing to assume because of facts that they know or something that might agree with that you are a christian. LISTEN, MY FRIENDS, THIS HAD BETTER BE REAL TO YOU ON THE INSIDE.. GUT LEVEL...If you are a christian, then your soul and your spirit is responding to the Lord.

Some times people say.."You know, I pray, Yet it seems that my prayers are going no where. I don't really feel any relationship with God."

Now, sometimes it is sin that mares our relationship with God so that we don't feel his presence. But, in normal circumstances when sin has been dealt with, and your heart has truly been born again, there is a response between you and the Saviour. IT IS REAL. And your soul and your spirit responds to God. And Mary is indicating here dependence upon God because it was real in her/ heart. ~~It~~

(2 ) And secondly, there was a definite recognition of her need of a saviour. How could Mary be born without sin and say what she said here in Vs 47..."My spirit has rejoiced in God....my....saviour."

Listen, Mary needed a saviour just like you and I need a saviour. She was not sinless. She knew that the Child that was going out off here womb was non other then the saviour of the world. "THOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JEUS FOR HE SAHLL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

You know, I think of that a lot as I wadder through the shopping centers and look at those manger scenes. I don't know if it effects you as it does me, but it sort of upsets me. I want to go up and ~~shag~~ shag people and say, "Hay, don't you know who that represents." And I would just like to put a cross in some of those manage scense. A cross that says, Don't forget who this baby is.... *That is the Saviour of the World*

Mary rejoiced in God...her...savior.

And by the way, if He is not God, how can he save you? Did you notice the way in which that is stated? REJOICE..IN..GOD...MY..SAVIOUR!

People say, "I don't believe Jesus is God." You haven't read the Bible correctly. Acts 20:28 Paul said to the Ephesian Elders..."be on guard over the flock in which the Lord has made you an overseer." And he called the church of God which he purchased with His own blood."

He called the one who purchased the church with his blood..Called him God...That is found in Acts 20:28

In I John 5:20 it says about Jesus Christ."This is the true God."

John 1:14 says that the Word was God. And the Word became flesh. That is what we are studying. The incarnation. The Virgin Birth of Christ. It was God becoming flesh.

And when Mary made this statement, she had absolute confidence of who that Baby was in her womb. "My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." She recognized her need of a saviour.

(3 ) And the third thing about her dependence on the Lord is that she had a personal realization of her unworthiness. Sometimes I think that is the reason why some of us don't get it. We want to believe in Christ. But we don't quite get it because there is no repentance in our hearts. There is no true understanding as to who we are and why we need a saviour.

Sometimes I think we are just adding Jesus. O.K. I hear all you say. Jesus brings joy, peace, love...I am all for that. Give me Jesus.

Look at what Mary said...vs 48..."For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave."

Mary is saying..."Hay! I don't deserve this. I am in a humble state." She knew that she was unworthy of what God was doing. DO WE?

I believe that when someone has truly been saved there is not only an inward response, there is not only a sense of your need of a saviour, but also you recognize who you are. You cannot save yourself. And there is a sense of your own unworthiness. That without Jesus we are nothing. ~~And when the heart is truly redeemed and born again,~~

And when the heart is truly redeemed and born again, the pride of our hearts, and the self centeredness, is broken and smashed by the Spirit of God. And we see that unless He saves us we are lost forever in Hell.

Sometimes our Gospel is weak because we do not sense what Mary sensed. That I am worthlessness in His sight. It is a miracle to me that God would show his mercy and love towards me. "He had regard for the humble state of His bondservant." Yes, Mary really responded about her dependency upon the Lord. ( ) But there is something else that I would like to draw to your attention. And that is that she recognized the mighty deeds of the Lord. There is really an important connection here. In Vs 46 to 48 She is showing you that she knew that she needed the Lord. That she couldn't save herself.

But in verses 49 to 53 she shows you that she believes that God could *cause this birth* save her. And she is trusting him. As amazing as a virgin birth sounded, she knew she couldn't do it. But she knew that God could.

Vs 49.....(READ Vs 49-53):

She is saying that God is in control. He is powerful, He is mighty.. He can do it. My friend, you cannot save yourself. Not at all. No matter how hard you try. You cannot earn it. You don't deserve it. You cannot pay for it. You cannot save yourself. It is impossible. BUT, THE POWER OF GOD CAN SAVE YOU. And there isn't anyone here today, regardless of your sin or the missed up life you have, that God cannot save. HE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE AROUND. He can turn you upside down.

Listen, all of us, we are here by God's grace. It is God's power that saves us. And Mary knew that. He has done mighty deeds....He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He can do anything He wants to. He is absolute control. Mary knew who she was. And she knew who God was.

(3 ) And then the third movement picks it up at Vs 53. And that is that she realized the dependability of God's promise. When you know who you are. And you know that you cannot save yourself. And you know who He is. That God can do it. This leaves one final question. WILL HE DO IT? DOES IT WANT TO DO IT?

And at this point Mary demonstrates her absolute confidence in God's word

She realizes the dependability of God's promises. Look at Vs 54.....

"He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, As he spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his offspring forever."

That is a great statement. All it means is that Mary knew that what was happening in her womb, was a fulfillment of prophecy to Abraham. That the seed of Abraham would be the Messiah and be the saviour of the world.

But I like this passage because it shows me the dependability of God's promises is not based upon my performance or yours, but it is based upon who God is....And in this text that means two things.

(1 ) His help; and (2 ) His mercy.

If God didn't intervene in our lives and help us, then his would mean nothing in our lives. No matter how many promises he has given us, they could never be fulfilled without His help. God can say to us.."If we believe in the Lord Jesus, I will give you eternal life. I will give you forgiveness of sin." But none of that can happen, dear friends, unless God intervenes and helps us.

Do you realize what Mary knew in that statement of Vs 54? She knew the history of Israel. They had turned their back on God. They went to immorality and idolatry and then to captivity. And now they are under the occupation of Rome. And an angel has come to her and said..."Mary, the answer is in your womb." HE HAS GIVEN HELP TO ISRAEL.

Why? Because Israel has deserved it? Because they were so great? NO!! It says in "remembrance of His mercy."

God's mercy holds back from us what we really deserve...Namely, judgment and hell. And why did God bring fulfillment of the promise he made to Abraham? When Israel had rejected the promise, why did he do it? Why doesn't God just tell us all to go to Hell? Why did God move in and bring His savior?

ANSWER: Because God is a God of mercy..."Where sin abounds, Grace did much more abound."

Now, listen, dear friends, I don't know why some of you hold back from God's wonderful love...But none of us would ever be saved if it was based upon our performance or our worthiness.

And Israel would never have had its hope fulfilled, would never have had the promise fulfilled, unless God would have intervined and helped them.

God was merciful. And that is why. Mary depended totally upon His promise.

Do you understand that it is because of who God is that He backs up what He says. And so we can trust him. You don't have to worry.

Mary is a wonderful example. She is really special.

But, you can be special also. When you believe like Mary

LET US PRAY

Father, you know our hearts. You know what is going on. You know the people who have come here today to hear the Word of God. Oh, God, I would pray that you by your Holy Spirit would bring people to yourself, today.