Mary's Christmas Song

Luke 1: 46-56

We are all familiar with the accounts surrounding the birth of our Lord. In the months preceding His birth, Mary felt great anxiety, as well as, matchless wonder. She was a virgin, espoused to a man named Joseph, and yet she was with child. The child within her womb was no ordinary child; He was the promised Messiah.

As difficult and uncertain as these days were, Mary rejoiced because of what the Lord had done. These verses record her song of praise, known as the Magnificat, a Latin translation of her words: My soul doth magnify the Lord.

The focus of the text is praise to the coming King. Christmas is a special time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The Christmas season is filled with songs that celebrate His coming, but none are more beautiful than Mary's song of praise. I pray that the Lord will speak to you as we consider the expressions of worship sang in: Mary's Christmas Song.

<u>I. She Sang of a Personal Savior</u> (47-49) —Just as Mary sang praises to the Lord for what He had done in her life, we are to praise Him as well. Heb.13:15 — By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Mary's song stands as a reminder of what the Lord has done for us. Notice, it was:

A. A Song of Redemption (47) – Mary begins her song with praise for her salvation. She was called of God to deliver the Lord into the world, but she was also in need of His salvation. She was born in sin and needed a Savior just like all men. I'm sure that she had lived her life in anticipation of the coming Messiah and His coming was at hand.

- Every born again believer has reason to rejoice. As we celebrate Christmas we can rejoice in the birth of Christ our Redeemer. He has provided a means for our salvation. Because of His birth and sacrifice we have hope. We have been pardoned from condemnation and promised a place in heaven.
- There is no sweeter song than the song of the redeemed. What a privilege to be able to sing of my redemption. There are times when it cannot be contained and we must sing!

B. A Song of Reflection (48) – Mary sang of the wonder of His mercy and grace. The Lord had regarded her low estate. He had looked upon her with favor and pity. Mary was overwhelmed that the Lord would come and bestow such an honor on such a lowly person. She hadn't earned salvation and she wasn't seeking this honor, but God gave it by His grace.

- If you take the time to reflect on the mercies of God it will cause you to rejoice. Who are we that the King of glory would be mindful of? I was of no value to Him; I had nothing to offer, and yet He came and gave to me all that heaven had to offer. Isn't it amazing that God would come to lowly sinners like us? Rom.3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Rom.5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He knew me and yet He loved me!
- <u>C. A Song of Rejoicing</u> (49) These were difficult days. I'm sure there were those who whispered about her condition. She likely was treated harshly, but she knew that God had done a miraculous thing in her life. Of all the women in Israel, she had been chosen as the mother of Christ. It would've been enough just to have the assurance of the coming Savior and the salvation that He brings, but God had done much more for her.
- Our salvation is a wonderful gift, far more than any of us deserve, and yet God continues to extend His blessings. As I ponder the beauty of His birth I am also reminded of the bounty of His blessings. There isn't a day that goes by that the Lord doesn't send down His blessings. He loves us and continually reveals that love. Ps.68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Are we not a blessed people? Has He not given much more than we deserve? That is reason to rejoice!

I. She Sang of a Personal Savior (47-49)

<u>II. She Sang of a Providential Savior</u> (50-53) – Mary rejoiced about her personal relationship and then she sang of the hope of others. The King was coming, bringing hope to all mankind. The bondage of sin would soon be overcome and deliverance would be provided. Her second verse sings of His boundless grace. Let's consider the grace the He brings. It is:

- **A. Perpetual Grace** (50) The mercies of the Lord are everlasting. He would soon be born to bring deliverance to men, but His saving grace would not be limited to those of Mary's day. His saving power did not end at His death; that grace remains today.
- We live in a dark, sinful world, but the grace of God is still being offered to all who believe. As long as we live in the day of grace, men will have the opportunity to be saved. He hasn't forsaken or skipped a generation and He never will! We serve a loving Savior who died for all and desires that all come to Him in salvation, I Tim.2:4-6 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; [6] Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

- <u>B. Providential Grace</u> (51-52) Jesus came in power to redeem men from sin, whoever and wherever they may be. He did not come for the rich and famous. He did not come for the prominent and elite; He came to save the lowest of sinners.
- Jesus came as a humble babe, born in a manger stall, without even the simplest of comforts. As He walked the earth He ministered to the weak and hopeless. Lu.19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. All who come humbly, realizing their need, and accepting His offer can be saved.
- Salvation isn't reserved for those who are wealthy, or those who have influence; it is reserved for those who come with a genuine desire to know the Lord. The ground is level at Calvary. We are not saved based on our merits or our worth; it is solely the gift of God. Ep.2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. This song of grace could be sung by all men, but sadly all will not come in repentance, seeking salvation. Jesus has paid the price for your redemption. If you die lost and go to hell, you will go to hell loved of the Savior!
- <u>C. Proportional Grace</u> (53) Here we are reminded of our responsibility to His merciful offer. You can have all of the Lord that you want. For those who come hungry, they will be filled. For those who have no desire for the things of God, His mercies will be withheld. Mat.5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. The Lord has what you need in this difficult day. He wants to bless you today, but you must seek Him. Col.3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- The Lord sent His only begotten Son so many years ago to atone for our sin and yet many never respond to the Him. There will be many this Christmas who will reject and deny the Lord, never considering the miraculous birth and the grace that He gives. You can have it either way, but why not enjoy the fullness of the Lord? Christmas can be a time of rejoicing and abundance or it can be a time of rejection and emptiness. You must decide which it will be.

I. She Sang of a Personal Savior (47-49)

II. She Sang of a Providential Savior (50-53)

<u>III. She Sang of the Promised Savior</u> (54-55) – As Mary closes her song, she praises God for sending His Son and for remembering the promises that He made to Israel through the coming Messiah.

<u>A. His Fulfillment of Prophecy</u> (54) – For centuries the Jews had longed for the Messiah. They had endured the difficulties looking for the One who would redeem them and restore what sin had lost. The coming of the King was the hope of all generations. Mary knew that God's Word had not failed and that Jesus would fulfill God's plan.

- This was no accident; God had this in mind before the foundation of the world. Jesus came unto the Jews, but His grace was extended to the Gentiles. God in His mercy has offered salvation to all men.
- We can rejoice because the Messiah has come. The Jews denied Him and continue to seek Him, but Jesus came and fulfilled the plan of redemption. There is no need to look for another; He lives!

<u>B. His Faithfulness to His Promises</u> (55) – Mary rejoiced because God had not forsaken Israel. He had kept His word to bless His people. They are still God's people and He will one day restore them unto Himself.

- You and I can rejoice because of God's faithfulness. He promised that the Savior would come and He kept His word. He has promised that He will come again and receive us unto Himself. He has promised a mansion in heaven where we shall live forever in His glory.
- Christmas should stand as a reminder of the faithfulness of God. Your life may be in turmoil and you may feel as if God has forgotten you, but He is ever at your side. Is.43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. There is nothing that His children face alone. He will never leave us nor forsake us!

I trust that you can sing this song of redemption today. Christmas is a celebration of our Savior's birth and the hope that He brings. He is the reason for the season. If you don't know the Lord as your Savior, you don't really know Christmas. Why not come and seek Him today?