CELEBRATE THE LORD

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**DATE: 12/24/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Luke 1:46-55**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our text this evening is taken from Luke’s Gospel and Mary’s Worship (**Luke 1:46-55**)

The months between the announcement of Christ's birth and the actual moment of His arrival …

Were months of Hard Decisions and Anxious Waiting on the part of Mary and Joseph

However, as difficult a time as I’m sure it was …

It’s also a Blessing to look at Mary’s Life and see how she Conducted herself (During this time)

In this passage, she has journeyed to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is also expecting a very special baby

When Mary arrives at her cousin’s house and speaks to Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy,

In **v. 45** Elizabeth responds by telling Mary that she is blessed because she has believed the Lord

And that God will do all that He has said He will do … To and Through her life

Hearing this, Mary, even though young, unmarried and pregnant, begins to lift her voice in Worship to the Lord

And in doing so, she Reveals a Heart that is in Love with God, and a Mind that is Filled with His Word

She teaches us that …

-- We can praise the Lord in spite of our circumstances,

-- And that God's Grace is sufficient, even in the most troubled of times

Mary's great Song of Praise has come to be known as the Magnificat

This is the Latin word describing the first few words which Mary speaks and it literally means, *“My soul celebrates the Lord”*

Mary lifts up her voice in Worship to God!

It reminds us today that the birth of Jesus is about far more than gifts, trees, myths like Santa, Rudolph, Frosty

… But rather, is about our relationship with God and about learning to Celebrate His Glory and His Goodness

Therefore, let's just take a few minutes to look at this great Anthem of Praise and join Mary in her Celebration of the Lord,

As we think on this thought, this Christmas Eve

***“Celebrate The Lord”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at Mary as she Celebrates the Lord for His …

**I. “PERSONAL” GRACE**

In **vs. 46-49** we see Mary in an attitude of Worship

Expressing her Heart -Felt Thanks for God’s blessings on her life

And in doing so, she sets an example that every Christian should seek to follow

First, we see …

**A. She Celebrates being ‘Redeemed’ – vs. 46, 47**

***“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,” “And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”***

When we talk about Redemption, we are talking about our Salvation

Like all of Mankind, Mary was born in sin and stood in need of a Saviour

In **v. 47**, she declares her dependence upon ***“God her Saviour”***

She is simply praising the Lord for the salvation He offers … and that which she possesses

**B. She Celebrates being ‘Regarded’ – v. 48 a**

***“For God hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden:”***

She shows her Humility as she describes herself as a handmaid (servant girl)

She praises God that He even noticed her

The word ***“Regarded”*** means *to look upon*

Mary is telling Elizabeth that she is thankful for God’s recognition, being who she is

And … that she is experiencing the Grace of God First Hand

Mary understood (Like we all should) that she didn’t necessarily deserve the favor of the Lord

But that yet … He has extended it to her

**C. She Celebrates being ‘Rewarded’ – vs. 48 b- 49**

***“for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed” “For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name”***

Mary realizes that God is doing something pretty wonderful in and through her life

She is to be the means by which the God of eternity would enters human history

While many in her day ridiculed her and talked down about her

She knew that in the future, others would look back on her obedience and know that she had been blessed by the Lord

Her Reward was in the fact that God would be Glorified and that others would be blessed by her actions

Everyone who knows the God of Eternity in a Personal way should acknowledge that the Lord has done ***“great things”*** for us (as well)

I mean, just think of all He has done for us

Think of the Blessings we enjoyed

Think of the Benefits that are ours as His children

Think of the Glory that awaits us in the future

We have been blessed abundantly!

And Like Mary, we all have reason to praise the Name of the Lord!

But are we doing it as we should?

Mary Experienced “**PERSONAL” GRACE**

Next, let’s look at Mary as she Celebrates the Lord for His …

**II. “PERPETUAL” GRACE – vs. 50-53**

Something that is Perpetual is something that Continues

And God’s Grace is never ending

As Mary continues in her Anthem of Praise of God’s Grace

First, she declares …

**A. The ‘Permanence’ of God’s Grace – v. 50**

***“And God’s mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation”***

Mary knows that she isn't the only one who Has or Will experience the Grace of God

Nor is her generation the only one that can expect to see the hand of God move

His Grace is to be revealed to every generation, until the return of Christ

The Grace of God is operating even today!

Next, we see her declare …

**B. The ‘Power’ of God’s Grace – vs. 51, 52**

***“God hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts” “He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree”***

Mary Praises the Lord because He did not come to reach out to the Proud and the Haughty

In fact, God chose to reveal Himself to those who were Poor and Humble – ***“low degree”***

In God working this great miracle, He has demonstrated His Power and puts to shame all those who think they have got it figured out

**I Corinthians 1:27 – *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”***

In one great act, God has Reversed the Order of Society

Those who are considered great, by men, will be brought low,

While those who trust in the Lord, though they may be poor and humble, will be exalted by their faith in the Lord

Then we see her Declare …

**C. The ‘Procedure’ of God’s Grace – v. 53**

***“God hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away”***

Mary reminds us that those who realize their lack can come to the Lord and be filled,

While those who think they have need of nothing can expect exactly that (from God)

God’s Grace is never ending, to those who look for it

God’s Grace is **“PERPETUAL”**

God’s Grace is **“PERSONAL”**

Lastly, let’s look at Mary as she Celebrates the Lord for His...

**III. “PERFORMANCE” of GRACE – vs. 54, 55**

**v. 45 – *“And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord”***

Elisabeth tells us that Mary would be Blessed because she Believed! (Faith)

Mary praises the Lord, not only for His blessings in her life and for His blessings upon successive generations, …

But she also praises the Lord for Remembering to do what He has Promised to do

She exalts His Name because He has not forgotten …

The bondage of His People, and their longing for Salvation

Mary praises the Lord for keeping His Word!

We see God Performing His Grace by …

**A. Remembering His ‘Promises’ – v. 54**

***“God hath holpen (helped) His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy;”***

For centuries, the Jews had lived on the promise …

That one day the Lord would send a deliverer, like Moses

A Messiah to redeem the people and to restore the nation to a place of righteousness and favor with God

Jesus is the fulfillment of those promises

And Mary exalts the Name of the Lord for Remembering to keep His promises

May I remind you that the Lord still keeps His promises?

He will never allow anything He has promised, to go undone

**Romans 4:21 – *“And being fully persuaded that, what God had promised, He was able also to perform”***

That is why He can be trusted in every situation in life

-- Whether it’s for someone’s salvation, as in …

**II Timothy 1:12 – *“…for I know whom I have …***

***… believed, and am persuaded that God is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

-- Or for our daily provision, as in …

**Philippians 4:19 – *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”***

God will do what He has said He will do

Therefore, like Mary we need to learn to trust God and learn to praise Him for His goodness, even if we aren’t seeing answers!

If there is one thing, we can be sure of, it’s that we can depend on the Lord

He will never let one of His promises fall to the ground

**II Peter 3:9 a – *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promises …”***

Then, we see God Performing His Grace by …

**B. Remembering His ‘People’ – v. 55**

***“As God spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed for ever”***

Mary rejoices in the fact that the Lord Hasn't forgotten about His people

There has always been those who have called on the Name of the Lord

She praises God’s Name that He Remembers …

… those who have placed their faith in Him

We have this same reason to Praise the Lord

There may be some here today who feel they have been deserted by God

Yet, let me remind you, what He has Promised to those who truly trust Him, (that …)

**Heb. 13:5 – *“He will never leave them, nor forsake them”***

**Matthew 28:20 – *“And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”***

We never need to fear God forgetting about us

We are forever impressed upon His heart

In fact, every time the Father looks at Jesus, He sees us

**Ephesians 2:6 – *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”***

He will see us through this Life and into the next

He did not save us to lose us

He did not save us to forget about us

He saved us to take us home to be with Him

What a blessed standing is ours

**CONCLUSION**

Let me close with this …

We are indebted to Mary this evening

-- Not to the extent that we should fall before her, or her stature and worship her (No…)

-- Not that we should pray to her (No…)

-- Not that we should hold her higher than anyone else who has ever lived (No…)

We owe her a debt of gratitude for reminding us that whether it’s for Personal Grace, Favor for others, or for those times we need the Lord to Proves Himself Faithful in our lives,

… We have a God who is worthy of our Faith, Love, Praise and Worship

With that in mind, I ask you this evening, do you have the same heart that dwelled in Mary?

Are you in a personal relationship with Almighty God?

Are you in such a position in your life that you can truly celebrate Jesus this Christmas?

I hope so!

**GOD’S “PERSONAL” GRACE**

**GOD’S “PERPETUAL” GRACE**

**GOD’S “PERFORMANCE” OF GRACE**