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| 1  Christmas 2024 Sermon Outline  12/22/24  “Christmas Worship That Pleases God”  Luke 1:46-55  **INTRO:**  Christmas makes us think about Jesus’ family  Specifically = mother  Mary = fascinated = mother of Son of God  Some so obsessed w/Mary = made her God = equal w/ Christ = more on that later  We know/sing famous Christmas classic 1984 = Mark Lowry = originally = Christmas play for his church  Eventually turned into song  wondered what it would be been like to be in Mary’s shoes… = interview questions | 2  “*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? Did you know that you baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you’ve delivered will soon deliver you*?”  Now I’m hoping that Lowry wrote = rhetorical  because Mary indeed “did know” full well = her child was God’s Son = sinner in need of salvation  Luke 1:46-55 = Mary’s heart of worship = Savior  Couldn’t help but proclaim how God has fulfilled His promise in giving the greatest love gift to humanity for all time  Mary’s Magnificat = worship at its finest  In age = man-centered/self-centered all about me “worship” songs that displease God = Mary’s song of worship = you can be sure pleasing to God  If you want to please God in your worship, follow this song |
| 3  **MAIN POINT/BREAKDOWN:**  In this song 2 truths about God that should shape how you approach and worship the Lord  1) First truth about God is that God blesses those who consider themselves as nothing before Him  VV. 46-49  2) Second truth is that God shows mercy to those who fear Him and humble themselves before Him  VV. 50-55  **BODY:**  Let’s begin with first truth about God in that God blesses those who consider themselves as nothing before Him  VV. 46-47  “*And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior*.” | 4  I can’t hold it in = my soul bursts with worship!  Almost overwhelming Lk 1:31 Gabriel tells Mary = she will conceive the Holy Son of God!?!?  She “magnifies” the Lord not because she was special or somebody but because God in His grace did so  Mary = not from royal family, nobility, person of status  from Nazareth!  Philip to Nathanael to see Christ  John 1:46 “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”  “Can anything good come out of Milton-Freewater?”  Mary = teenager no more than 15!  Ordinary Jew betrothed to her husband  A nobody, obscure |
| 5  But a prime candidate because she recognized not only her status as a nobody, but her status as spiritually a nobody, someone who was in need of a Savior  V. 48 “*For He has looked upon the humble state of His slave, for behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed*.”  Notice Mary calls herself God’s “slave” = doesn’t sound like Mary is a co-redemptor with Christ  Mary says she rejoiced in God “her Savior” = doesn’t sound like ….  Deification of Mary as well as the saints = Blasphemous and evil  R.C. = unalterable decrees/doctrines about Mary = comes from “Marian dogmas”  One Catholic website said this about the Marian dogmas “*To reject these dogmas is to have an incomplete, and thus incorrect, idea about God. Likewise, to know Our Lady is to know Our Lord*.” | 6  Essentially it is these:  Immaculate conception of Mary (not immaculately conceiving Christ but Mary was immaculately conceived by her mother) = conceived by her mother without original sin  Second doctrine = Mary never sinned in her life  Third doctrine = perpetual virginity of Mary = never had relations with a man (even though Mary and Joseph had other children after Jesus)  Fourth doctrine = assumption of Mary = glorified state  Fifth = coronating as queen of heaven = position of sovereignty and authority  ILLUST:  Why church I drove by growing up was called “Our Lady, Queen of Heaven”  Referring to Mary! = |
| 7  Clear from Scripture = Mary was an ordinary human = not god = moreover = sinner!  If Mary alive today = horrified  horrified = people being led astray + horrified = those who teach these doctrines = what will happen to their souls in judgment if they don’t repent  When Mary says “from now on, all generations will count me blessed” = not request to be deified + put in a special category = because of the privilege of being chosen to raise up Jesus on earth and closeness she would have that others don’t have with Him  Nevertheless V. 49 “*For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name*.”  Mind-boggling truth about God = angels worship Him  “Holy, holy, holy” = they wouldn’t dare look upon God covers their ears  Repeat adjective twice = really holy | 8  But to repeat three times!? = something else  Mary knows first and foremost that God is holy  That’s what’s wrong with this culture = we have lost the concept that our God is a holy God, in His holiness he is like a consuming fire  Like a fire = Brilliantly dazzling and beautiful to look at from a distance, but deadly if mishandled correctly  Yet angel Gabriel announced this consuming fire, this Holy One of God would take on human flesh and be born through her womb!  That is the mystery and irony, that the sinless pure God would take on and inhabit sinful flesh  That’s how God works so often right?  He chooses to bring His most extraordinary work through the least extraordinary people  Nobody expected = David to slay Goliath |
| 9  Nobody = world turned upside = fishermen + ragtag  Nobody = expected Samuel to be a prophet he was  Why?  God’s glory and power = most magnified in what world despises + weakness  In fact, the more despised you are by world, the weaker you are the better so that God’s power can be more displayed in your life  1 Cor. 1:26-29  “*For consider your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,**and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may abolish the things that are, so that no flesh may boast before God*.” | 10  But God not only blesses those who count themselves as nothing before Him = but He blesses them mercy for those who fear Him  2) Second truth of God where God shows mercy to those who fear Him and humble themselves before Him VV. 50-55  V. 50 quote from Deut. 5  Moses speaks of justice and mercy of God  God will not bend his justice but punish evil by His justice but will also show mercy to thousands of generations of those who fear Him  Fear = sinful dread of punishment  Rather “fear” = trembling at what God has done despite who He is and delighting in Him because of that  But what happens when people don’t fear Him?... |
| 11  “*he has done a mighty deed with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart*.”  Perhaps Mary thinking = Tower of Babel  (explain what happened)  V. 52 “*He has brought down rulers from their thrones*, like King Nebuchadnezzar literally bringing him down to the level of an animal. Yet he has also *exalted those* like King Nebuchadnezzar *who were humble* and realized who they were before God.  Acts 12 = King Herod killed by worms  V. 53 “*He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent away the rich empty-handed*”  Social justice warriors + woke = would love this verse  But God condemn rich people because they are rich | 12  But what He does condemn is when people rely on their riches as they would rely on God  He opposes that “pick yourself up by your own bootstraps” mentality  God hates it when anything takes the place of the worship that is due Him  What you do see is the Bible warning against amassing much riches = tendency for our heart to be drawn away by that  You see God filling the hungry with good things because they not only are crying out for their physical sustenance, but their spiritual sustenance as they realize their true spiritual poverty through their physical poverty  Matt. 5 “*blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*.”  Mary’s soul magnifies the Lord and rejoices ultimately = God fulfilled covenant promise to her people |
| 13  V. 54 “*He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.”*  Israel being = captive nation  Israel being smallest of all peoples  Israel = nation = forsook God idolatry  Israel = stiff-necked people  Israel = 40 years wandering in wilderness  They thought they would help other nations by being a light, but they themselves turned to need that same help  And it came when Mary conceived in the power of the Holy Spirit the child Jesus Christ  All this was “*In remembrance of His mercy as when He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever”* | 14  From the very beginning when God promised in Gen. 3:15 to crush the head of the serpent down to the announcement of Jesus’ birth in Mary…God has kept His promise in “remembrance of His mercy”  2024, 2000 years later from then, God is still remembering His mercy  A mercy that He extends to anyone who knows they are like Mary recognized unworthy to receive anything good from the Lord  Like John the Baptist, we are not even worthy to be a slave of Jesus to untie the sandal strap of Jesus’ feet  A mercy that is extended to anyone like Mary who fears Him and humbles themselves before Him  It is a mercy that is shown when we recognize our own uncleanness before a holy God like Mary did  If you recognize who you really are in light of the holy one of God, He can do a great work in your life by lifting you up to salvation so that you may reign with Him |
| 15  Mary knew how to rightly worship the Lord  Mary knew the kind of worship that God blesses  A worship that magnifies who God is in all that He done  She could say “*behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed*” because she would be reminded of her need and dependence on her Savior every day literally right in front of her  How many of you have raised up a perfect child…  How many of you can raise your hand and say my child is sinless?  But Mary raised the Savior in the best way she knew how but He was perfect  Not a sinful word uttered  No selfishness of hoarding toys | 16  Never a sinful response to parents  Never once disobeyed  In fact, there must have been countless times where Mary lost her cool and sinned against her son Jesus, and Jesus responded in grace and perfect forgiveness  Can you imagine how many times you would be reminded of your own sin and imperfections and constant need for salvation  But also how much you would be blessed by the perfect wisdom, righteousness, and holiness of your son?  It was a unique relationship for sure, but not unique because Mary was special, but because the one she raised was special  Mary’s song = cuts through all the superficial songs “worship” = me and my feelings  Mary’s song = is not about her, but about her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ |
| 17  Mary’s Magnificat is not there to sound nice and eloquent  her song is there to confront you about what you are doing to do about the content of her song?  Do you see God as the Mighty One who can do all things and as  the Holy One, gloriously separate from all creation and sin  Do you fear the Lord in this way?  Have you humbled yourself like Mary did?  Because if you are relying on yourself, your works, your work ethic, your possessions, your intellect, or anything else in this world God will oppose you  But if you humble yourself before Him = exalt You and lift you up  Did Mary know? Yes she knew full well what kind of a child she was bearing | 18  God in flesh  She also knew she needed to be saved by the very same child  Question is: “Do you know?”  And not only do you know, but what are you going to do about it?  Are you just going to walk out of this sanctuary knowing the facts of Mary’s song?  Or are you to respond to command of Lord = abandon everything in way of Jesus = follow Him?  Let’s pray  Benediction: Genesis 49:10  *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”* |