

“SINGING MARY’S SONG”

Luke 1:46-55

“*Silent Night*” is a carol of peace. But the very first Christmas carol had exactly the opposite effect.

E. Stanley Jones called it “the most revolutionary document in the history of the world”.

William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury, instructed missionaries in India never to read the words in public because it would incite riots.

This is the impact of the “Magnificat” of Mary. There is something about Mary that makes her song so powerful.

1. She had learned to trust God completely (38)
“*I am the Lord’s slave, may it be done to me according to your word.*”
2. She had made personal choices to prepare her for the surprises (27,34) of 2 Timothy 2:21
“*How will this be since I am a virgin?*”
3. She knew the true identity of her baby (30-33)
“*... Jesus, the son of the Most High...*”

After the Holy Spirit confirmed the message through Elizabeth’s exclamations (39-45) Mary sang this remarkable song (46-55).

STANZA 1 – “UNBELIEVABLE GRACE”

- Her self-description (47) – only sinners need a Saviour
 - She is not the offspring of immaculate conception
- Her humility (48) – small, unworthy of God’s grace
 - God chooses the humble to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:27-29)
 - cf. 1 Samuel 16:7 “...the Lord looks at the heart”
- Her heritage (50) – God’s mercy blesses generations.

HOW CAN WE SING THIS SONG TODAY?

- God loves the weak, the underdog, the disqualified, the unimpressive, the needy, the flawed
- God chooses to use us as He used Mary

STANZA 2 – “RADICAL REVERSALS”

- God rescues the helpless (51)
 - Mary knows her boy-child will up-end the centers of human power
 - A day is coming for righting of wrongs
Amos 5:24 – justice will flow like water...
- God exalts the humble (52)
 - Read Nebuchadnezzar here (Daniel 4:34-37)
also Herod, Hitler, Hussein
 - Seek humility in face of self-promotion (Psalm 131:1-3)
- God fills the hungry (53)
 - God looks for people who are hungry for him
Matthew 5:6 – blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...

For Mary, her journey continues; she waits through her pregnancy for the birth of her son – the Messiah.

LIKE MARY, HOW CAN WE SING THIS SONG AS OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES?

1. Acknowledge our helplessness and God’s great grace
2. Trust God for His provision for the helpless, humble and hungry.
3. Ask God to make our church a home for the empty, unloved, lost and forgotten.