

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, December 17, 2017

**What Christmas Magnifies
Week 2 in “Christmas Through Mary’s Eyes”
A Study of Luke 1:46-55**

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What is an “earworm”? What tunes have become earworms for you?

Today is our second study in the series, “Christmas Through Mary’s Eyes.” Today’s text is a song Mary sang for the joy of being part of God’s plan.

The entire song is found in Luke 1:46-55, but let’s start with the first two verses. Read Luke 1:46-47.

What are some lenses and techniques we use to “magnify” the natural world? What are some ways we magnify God? (Example: writing in a journal. Now name a few more.)

What becomes clearer when we magnify the natural world with a lens? What becomes clearer when we magnify God?

In verses 46-47, Mary said she *magnified* God and *rejoiced* in him. How are these two actions related? (Can you have one action without the other action? Which action makes the other action happen?)

Mary’s song praised God over two things: that God’s plan had finally begin to unfold and that she had a major role in that plan. You can magnify God at Christmastime by reflecting on **who God used** and **what God started** that first Christmas day.

Who God Used

Read Luke 1:48-49.

How was Mary unimportant by the world’s standards?

God likes to use ordinary people to accomplish his work. Pastor Tom said that fact should give us *boldness* and *humility*.

- ❖ Why should it make us bold?
- ❖ Why should it make us humble?

What God Started

According to Mary's song, Christmas was the time God began to demonstrate his mercy, his power, and his faithfulness through Jesus Christ.

God's Mercy.

Read Luke 1:50.

Define mercy.

Why do we need mercy?

How can we describe the coming of Jesus as an act of God's mercy?

God's Power.

Read Luke 1:51-53.

What contrasts does Mary make in these verses?

Read Exodus 15:19-21 and compare Miriam's song to Mary's song.

Like Mary's song, Jesus would later say that in his kingdom "the first shall be last and the last shall be first." What does this mean?

How does your life reflect God's concern for justice for the people Jesus called "the least of these"?

God's Faithfulness.

Read Luke 1:54-55.

Mary said that the birth of her son would be "in remembrance" of what he "spoke to our fathers." In other words, the coming of Jesus would be in fulfillment of God's Old Testament promises. What are some Old Testament promises that Jesus fulfilled?

In what ways could Christianity be considered "fulfilled Judaism"?

In what ways has God been faithful to you?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests