

My Soul Magnifies and My Spirit Rejoices

The Glory of God and the Joy of His People

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 1:46-56

→ “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (vv. 46b-47)



Big Idea

The glory of God is the object of our joy because He flexes His greatness for the good of His people. Therefore, the greater He is the happier I am.

(1) The Glory of God and the Joy of His People (vv. 46-47)

“God’s goal is His glory, but this needs careful explanation, for it is easily misunderstood. It points to a purpose not of divine egoism, as is sometimes imagined, but of divine love. Certainly, God wants to be praised for His praiseworthiness and exalted for His greatness and goodness; He wants to be appreciated for what He is. But the glory that is His goal is in fact a two-sided, two-stage relationship: it is...a conjunction of (a) revelatory acts on His part whereby He shows His glory to men and angels in free generosity, with (b) responsive adoration on their part whereby they give Him glory out of gratitude for what they have seen and received. In this conjunction is realized the fellowship of love for which God’s rational creatures were and are made, and for which fallen human beings have now been redeemed. The to-and-fro of seeing glory in God and giving glory to God is the true fulfillment of human nature at its heart, and it brings supreme joy to man just as it does to God” (Packer, Concise Theology, p. 59).

(2) In the Personal Dimension (vv. 48-49)

A close read of vv. 48-49 will uncover the fact that Mary gives us here a string of ground clauses—3 reasons for her magnifying and rejoicing in God her Savior. These are delineated clearly in the English text by the word: “for.” The upshot is essentially that He who is mighty, uses that might to do great things for me! In the Greek, the word “magnify” is related to this word “great”. The idea is this: because He has done great things for me, I want to make Him known as great with all my soul!

(3) In the Corporate Dimension (vv. 50-55)

Mary realizes that the merciful reversal of fortunes that she’s experienced at the hand of the Lord is held out to all who would fear Him and give up their pursuit of joy in their own glory to find it in His. There are two sides to this great reversal that she sings of: On the one hand are the proud whom God will scatter; the mighty whom God will bring down; and the rich whom God will empty. And on the other hand are the humble whom God will exalt; the lowly servant whom God will help; the hungry whom God will fill with good things. Both sides are brought together by Christ at the cross.



Critical Action

Give God your name. Put your reputation, your ambition, your life in His hands. Stop trying to impress others or Him with yourself and start being impressed by all that He is for you in Jesus!



Reflection Questions

- How do you handle encouragement or honor that is given to you? Do you find yourself savoring it, rejecting it, or passing it upward in praise to God? How can we receive such things in a way that keeps us both humble and happy in the Lord?
- Reread the quote by Packer above. How have you experienced the re-humanizing “to-and-fro” of glory that he speaks of? Where else do you see this play out in the Bible?
- Are you living in Gen 11 or 12? Are you making a name for yourself or letting Him make a name for you? What would it look like for you to take specific steps towards Gen 12 this week?