

MEN'S MINISTRY at ROME CHURCH

December 8, 2011

Songs of the Advent: Mary's Song, Lk 1:46-55

Pastor's notes

How do I draw the macho mind into a song written by a teen-age girl two millennia ago? Let's start by looking at her Game Book. Verse 46. "*My soul glorifies the Lord.*" Some translations read "magnifies" -both very good words that mean to enlarge. With her whole being (intellect, emotion, and will), she enlarged God in her life. That means that God was a growing influence, presence, personality, goal and coach in her everyday life. He increased while she decreased. But how did she score such a lofty goal? It's clear that she understood God's game plan - that had a better idea for her success in life than she did; that he was a powerful, sovereign God; that He had a value system far above man's, and that he was winning the values war on the field of play. Those are just a few things that her MIND was comprehending, her WILL was choosing to do, and her EMOTIONS were expressing in unashamed praise to a God who was asking her to do and believe the humanly impossible.

So where does that leave us, men? Probably still at the line of scrimmage while she's crossing the goal line. She knew God's "Game Book". May that same spirit Mary had help us make God bigger in our life today by letting Him call the plays.

Decreasingly Yours,

Pastor Scott

No Men's Monday night fraternity until Jan. 2!

Come join us on Monday nights starting in January as we look into the practical use of the word in our family and marriages. If your family life is good, this will make it better. If your family life isn't so good, it's essential that you be here. Don't hold back, your family needs you to be as spiritually strong as possible. Come join us as we learn, help, and pray for one another.

January Men's breakfast:

Come join us on Saturday January 7 at 8:00am. Call Rick Maricle if you can help with breakfast. Come join the fun as we share a meal and look in to God's word. We still need a volunteer to bring the devotional.

Small Groups are on hold until January:

Start out the new year by joining a home study group or starting one in your home. It's a great way to grow in the Word and to meet new friends. Coming to church on Sunday morning gets you to first base in your spiritual growth. Step out of your comfort zone, get

more involved. If you have an interest in starting a group, please talk to Pastor Scott (after talking with your wife, of course!).

[Newcomer's Class to begin Jan. 8th](#)

There is a sign-up sheet at the info booth for anyone interested in hearing more about Rome's doctrine and practices and what it means to be a member of RCBC. If you're not yet a member, please give prayerful thought to officially joining with the body at Rome.

["Practical Application of God's Word"](#)

This past week we studied how Mary had faith enough to believe the angel when it told her that she would be the mother of the coming savior. Luke 1:38 *"And Mary said, Behold the hand maid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."* What was it that caused or allowed Mary to believe? Zacharias, in Luke 1:20, was made dumb and not able to speak because the angel said he didn't believe what he told him. Study these two events and think about why Mary believed and Zacharias had a hard time with it.

Spend some thought on these ideas this week. The Pharisees saw possibly hundreds of miracles. Why did this not cause them to believe? What caused you and your family to believe? What will it take for that certain co-worker or friend to believe? What actually causes a person to believe in Christ? Share your thoughts with me. Send them to me. This topic on faith is something we must try to understand in a more complete way. Rocky

[What's in a concept?:](#)

"God's goodness to the humble" Luke 1:51-53

- he has mercy on those who fear him
- he has scattered those who are proud in their innermost thoughts
- he has brought down rulers from their thrones
- he has sent the rich away empty

Think on the word humble. What does it mean to you? Are you humble or do you try to be humble? Is this reflected in the home you live in and the car you drive? Can the rich be humble? What did Moses really do to be called humble? What should we learn from him? Is it possible to be poor and still not be humble? Does being humble have more to do with your attitude than your pocketbook? Share your thoughts with me.

[Pastors Bible Question:](#)

The set up... We get the picture. God seems to use people that we would never dream of using -the humble, lowly, poor, small town or small tribe types. **The big question is why?** In today's world we would ask why he doesn't use college professors and higher ups of the church to do his calling. And what's wrong with using the richest or most popular person in town to be the Mary or Savior?

Pastors answer

God CAN use anybody to fulfill his plan. He still does use rich and powerful people, but in ways we might not understand or appreciate. Thankfully, people of means and influence can also love the Lord and recognize his blessing and give him glory - R. G. Le Tourneau, for one. In the news lately is Tim Tebow, successful Broncos QB who is making headlines for his public display of his Christian convictions. As Howard Hendricks says, "May their tribe increase!"

I think the basic answer to **the big question** above is that God wants to impress upon us a divine value system rather than the human one displayed in the Garden of Eden (see Gen. 3:6). God is the ultimate "rich and powerful" Person, but he still wants a relationship with those who killed his only Son. (By the way, that's you and me...) Do you suppose there's a lesson there of how a society of faulty humans can learn humility, sacrifice, mercy, forgiveness, etc.?

To answer the last question, consider how different the scenario would have been had God chosen a daughter of a wealthy merchant/politician in Jerusalem to birth and raise the Savior? How might the world's values be different? The church's values, worship, and our Christmas carols? I can think of other great wealthy, powerful men God picked, then relieved them of their earthly power, and replaced it with his own. (Check out II Cor. 12:7-10 and Heb 11:24-26)

Take away truths:

- God's salvation, his blessings and his promises are for the humble.
- Enlarge God in your life by showing his mercy to the humble.
- humble yourself before the Lord

Sunday Quotes:

Mary was submissive to God :

"I am the Lord's servant"

"My soul does magnify the Lord"

God exalts the lowly and abases the proud.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:50

For this Sunday, read Zechariah's story, Lk 1:57-80