

## MARY PRAISES GOD

**Luke 1:46-55**

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Luke 1:46-47, With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

There is great excitement and many preparations that need to be made to be ready for a new addition to a family. The arrival of a new child, especially the first child, brings with it many changes to the family dynamic. When the parents are not married that puts another layer of complicated change into the already stressful anticipation. This was where Mary found herself. Not only could she be ostracized from the community for being pregnant out of wedlock, she could be put to death by stoning. But, Mary's faith was great. She believed the promises God had made to her through the angel. The angel told her she would have a son, God's Son. Therefore she believed God would also protect her so the child would be born. There were so many ways Mary could have doubted God. First an angel spoke to her. People would think she was crazy! She was pregnant but she had not been with a man, sure, OK, that makes no sense. She was carrying God's Son. That sounds like a definition of blasphemy to me.

But Mary's visit to Elizabeth confirmed what she already believed. Mary knew what God had promised and she accepted the blessing God had for her. In this scripture Mary breaks out in song praising God for the high honor He had entrusted to her. Here she expresses her joy of being a mother and especially a mother to the Son of God. Mary in her humility felt unworthy to be used in this way, but she knew what an honor God had rewarded her for her faithfulness. Her praise emanated from the depths of her soul.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, let us also be willing to do whatever you ask of us, even if it puts us into jeopardy of being ostracized, ridiculed or laughed at. Lord we know Your ways do not always make sense in the eyes of today's successful or influential people. Give us the wisdom to want to please You instead of pleasing people who gauge success by worldly standards. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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