

THE SONG OF MARY – LUKE 1: 46 -55.

TEXT: Luke 1: 46 – 55.

Introduction:

As a follow-up to the visit of our father in the Lord, Pastor E.A. Adeboye to have the special service of miracles and blessings with us, we know for sure that the word of the Lord has been made manifest: “thou shall arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.” Also on Friday in London at the Festival of Life service, the Lord promised to send help to us from above (**Isaiah 41: 10 – 13**).

How do we respond to such awesome promises, miracles and blessings?

We need to look at song of Mary for our edification today.

The Song of Mary is otherwise known as the “**Magnificent**”. When the angel Gabriel (Lk 1:26) told the young virgin Mary that she was going to have a child who would be the Son of God and reign over the house of Jacob forever (**vs. 32-33**), her answer was appropriate: “**How will this be since I am a virgin**” (v. 34). The answer of the angel, in my opinion did not help matters, at least to a mere mortal who had never heard about such a divine conception: “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age. And she who was called barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God**” (**vs. 35-37**).

Mary, excited or confused and wishing to find out about what she was told took an action. He travelled to Elizabeth in the hill country. (39–45). On getting to Elizabeth, all the confirmation Mary needed was the child in Elizabeth’s womb kicking for joy and Mary could find the Holy Spirit at work as Elizabeth exclaimed: “**Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear. But why I am so favoured that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.**”

All the above drama was what Mary needed as confirmation and she saw a most remarkable thing about God: He is about to change the course of human history. God was operating and demonstrating His power through two obscure, humble women: one old and barren and the other young and a virgin. This prompted Mary, who was neither a music composer nor a poet to utter one of the most inspiring songs of all time known as the magnificent.

From the interaction and the way it was recounted by Luke, these two women showed unparalleled display of lowliness and cheerfulness which appear to be uncommon not even at their time and certainly very rare today. Elizabeth says in verse 43: *“but why I am so favoured that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”* Mary in verse 48 says: *“for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”*

A writer has said that “the only people whose soul can truly magnify the Lord is people like Elizabeth and Mary – people who acknowledge their lowly estate and are overwhelmed by the condescension of the magnificent God.” Hannah also in the book of **1 Sam. 2: 1-10** uttered a song similar to that of Mary’s.

The parallels in the songs convey an impression that Mary must have been versed in the scripture. The challenge to us is to steep our minds and hearts in the scripture day and night so that the words and thoughts of Scripture can fill our mouths as naturally as they did Mary’s Col. 3: 16 says: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”* In James 5: 13b we are charged: *“Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise”*.

In Mary’s song of praise there are three distinct sections and messages:

1. Expression of what she feels in her heart – **joy** (vs. 46 – 50).
2. Expression of what God has done for her specifically – **the Mighty one has done great things for her and regarded her lowliness and did great things for her (vs. 51 – 55).**
3. Expression of the general character of God, His attributes and the way he deals with people who are faithful to Him and those who disregard His Lordship over their lives (51 – 55). In singing about the general attributes of God, he portrayed His holiness. He lifts up the humble (vs. 52). He feeds the hungry with good things (vs.53.) He brought down rulers from their thrones, He sent the rich away empty; and He maintains the consistent pattern from the call of Abraham and to His descendants for ever even as he has promised our fathers.

Let us not be blinded by the excesses that go with the worship of Mary by some sects. Let us admire and practice the lessons in her song. Her spiritual beauty reaches its emotional peak in the first part of her song where she responds from the heart to all God did for her, **“My soul magnifies the Lord and spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”**. How does a soul Magnify God? A soul magnifies God by **saying** “God is magnificent; by **speaking** of His praises. Let my soul be that soul that will magnify the Lord

continually and my mouth be that mouth that will speak of his praises as long as I live.
The Psalmist declared: “Let everything that has breathe praise the Lord” **Ps. 150: 6.**