

POWER HOUR

12/15/2024

Lesson Text:
Luke 1:39-56

Background Scripture:
Luke 1:5-38

Devotional Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Psalms 103:1-18

“GOD’S PLAN IS AFFIRMED”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *46 Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. 47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! NLT*

Time: 7 or 6 B.C.

Place: hill country of Judea

Luke 1:39-56 NLT

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town **40** where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. **41** At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. **43** Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? **44** When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. **45** You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.” **46** Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. **47** How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! **48** For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. **49** For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. **50** He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. **51** His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. **52** He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. **53** He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. **54** He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. **55** For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.” **56** Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson this week looks into the lives of two of God's servants and teaches us some spiritual concepts important to our daily walk with the Lord. Both Mary and Elisabeth showed humility and obedience to the Lord. Neither of them believed that she deserved anything special from the Lord but praised Him and rejoiced in Him when blessed.

1. The promise affirmed by Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-45). Mary had just been told that she was going to conceive miraculously by the power of the Holy Spirit. God had also miraculously intervened in Elisabeth's life to enable her to conceive when she and her husband, Zacharias, were both well past childbearing age. Mary traveled to the hill country to see her relative and to hear about God's hand on her life. What Mary got in response to her search was probably more than she had expected. God's responses to our asking, seeking, and knocking are often way beyond anything we would ask or think.

2. Mary's song of praise (Luke 1:46-56). This great honor was not bestowed on Mary because of her qualification for a miracle or of her merits. God's choices of whom He acts through are based on His sovereignty and grace, not on human merit. None of us deserve anything. It is only by God's grace that we are saved or that anything good ever happens in our lives. Notice that Mary's song of praise is mainly about what God has done, not what she had done or would do. Mary's song of praise dwells first on what God had done for her. God had specifically taken notice of her. It was a great blessing and an honor to be included in the outworking of God's eternal plan of redemption. Likewise, we should see that it is a supreme honor and blessing for each one of us to be part of God's family and to be used in His service in whatever way He chooses. Your testimony of God's grace can be part of the outworking of God's plan to save someone else and may be a source of encouragement to others. Mary then recalled the great things God had done for His people Israel down through the ages. God has helped the humble and helpless and disciplined the proud and powerful. God has kept His promises and His covenant with Abraham and his descendants. We are all blessed by the faithfulness of God.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. We should acknowledge both great and small things the Lord does for us (Luke 1:39-44).
2. God will act in response to a small measure of faith (Luke 1:45-47; II Thess. 3:3).
3. God's power transforms us into world changers. His power shames the prideful (Luke 1:48-51; John 1:12; I Cor. 1:20).
4. God's plans make the arrogant stumble and elevate the true believer (Luke 1:51).
5. God puts down those who are high and raises up those who are lowly (Luke 1:52-56; I Sam. 2:7).

CONCLUSION

God used Moses in a great way to deliver Israel from captivity; but only Jesus, the Son of God, could save His people from their sins.

QUESTION(S)

- Why did Mary go to visit her relative Elisabeth?
- How did Elisabeth know that Mary was carrying within her the Messiah?
- What was the basis for Elisabeth's blessing of Mary?
- Why is Elisabeth's blessing important to the biblical narrative?
- What do Mary's words of praise reveal about her?
- What in Mary's words points to Jesus' deity?
- What proves that Mary, though a godly person, was not sinless?
- How does God demonstrate His great strength?
- In what terms did Mary picture God's justice?
- How did Jesus' coming relate to the promise God made to Abraham and his descendants?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is **"God's Messiah Is Born (Christmas)"**

Lesson Text: **Matthew 1:18 -25**

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