

## Defining Moments – Mary

Text: Luke 1:46-55

How does Mary respond?

*At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I 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 the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"*

Luke 1:39-45

Luke gives us five nativity hymns.

- o Elizabeth's Benedicta (Luke 1:42-45),
- o Zechariah's Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79),
- o the angels' *Gloria* (Luke 2:14)
- o Simeon's Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32).
- o Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants." (Luke 2:39-45)

Elizabeth – "But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43)

Mary – "for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant." (Luke 1:45)

Song of Hannah (Samuel 2:11-10)

Hannah (1 Samuel 2)	Mary (Luke 1)
Vs. 1 My heart exalts in the Lord... I rejoice in Thy salvation	Vs.46f My soul magnifies the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
Vs.2 There is none holy like the Lord.	Vs.49 Holy is His name.
Vs.4 The bows of the mighty are broken but the feeble gird on strength.	Vs.52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree.
Vs.5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.	Vs.53 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

1. The Essence of HIS attributes (vv.50-55)

i. He is **holy**.

ii. He is **merciful**.

“His mercy extends to those who fear him”

iii. He is **just**.

“He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ”

2. The Extent of HIS deeds (v. 48-49)

“a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, ‘Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that you sucked!’ But He said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.”” (Luke 11:27-28)

“His mother and His brothers come to Him, but they could not reach Him for the crowd. And He was told, ‘Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.’ But He said to them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and do it.’” (Luke 8:19-21)

3. The Expression of HER joy (Vv. 46-47)

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”