



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #011
Jesus’ 30 Years of Preparation for Ministry
Jesus’ Birth and Growth into Maturity

Mary’s Psalm of Praise: “The Magnificat”
Luke 1.46-56

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46 Mary prayed in praise...

"My soul continues to boast in the Lord, 47 and my spirit has exulted in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with gracious favor upon the humiliation of his handmaid.
Look! From now on, all generations will call me profoundly blessed.
49 This is because the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name!
50 His mercy reaches out to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
51 He has done powerful deeds with his arm;
He has scattered those who are proud in the reckoning of their inner thoughts.
52 He has booted princes off their thrones, but has lifted the humble up in exaltation.
53 He has stuffed the hungry with good things; but he has sent the rich away empty.
54 He has given help to his servant Israel, being ever mindful of His mercy,
55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as promised to our fathers."

56 And Mary lived with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her house.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus.*

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Elizabeth’s Home; The Hill Country of Judea
Time	9 Months Before the Birth of Jesus
Jesus’ Life Context	Jesus’ 30 Years of Preparation for Ministry
	Jesus’ Birth and Growth Into Maturity
Title	Mary’s Psalm of Praise, “The Magnificat”

We saw in DJN #009 that Mary was a young woman of deep faith. Today’s reading shows us the depth and reach of her humility. Jesus is like no other baby in history because his surrogate mother was a

virgin, and an author of a portion of the Scriptures. Mary was able to raise Jesus in the perfect environment for the Messiah, for she filled her home with her prayers of faith, and the humility of loving service.

Mary's faith was grounded in the deepest humility, and a soaring, high view of God's greatness. She testified that God favored her because of her "humiliation." She was willing to accept the ignominy and public shame of becoming pregnant while still an engaged virgin, because she was lowly of heart in the most profound way. She personally experienced God's way of resisting the proud, but embracing the humble in His gracious love. Note how she describe this in her psalm of praise.

To the proud... God *"scatters them, boots them (princes) off their thrones, and sends the rich (self-satisfied) away empty."*

To the humble... God *"lifts them up in exaltation, stuffs the hungry with good things, and gives powerful help to His servant"* (Mary, Israel, and all who fear God).

From beginning (verse 50) to end (54), God's work of humbling the proud, and exalting the humble is an expression of His mercy, that reaches out to those who fear him, and is ever on God's mind as He loves us. This mercy is God's gracious favor toward us, in which Mary exulted, and made her constant boast as she gave glory to her God.

Mary was a young woman (probably about 14 years of age) rich, Bible-based wisdom. Almost all of the words of her psalm are phrases quoted from various Old Testament Psalms. She knew how to pray and praise according to God's Word.

APPLICATION:

God does resist the proud by humbling them, and He likewise exalts the humble by empowering them to serve Him in a way that glorifies His Name. Mary is a fabulous example of this, and of course, Jesus is the greatest example of all.

Pride is at the heart of our sinful nature. We will have an ongoing battle with it as long as we are alive on this earth. The good news is that GOD mercifully takes the initiative in dealing with our pride. We just need to open up ourselves to His work, and yield ourselves to His strategy of scattering our arrogant thinking, booting king-self off the throne that belongs to Him alone, and creating hunger for Him by emptying us of ourselves.

These are painful works of mercy, but they yield the most satisfying kind of fullness: God's very own loving presence, and uplifting, empowering grace.

When is the last time you took an honest look at your pride/humility index?

More importantly, how has God been speaking to, and working on your pride recently?

What aspect of pride do you need to confess and yield to God today?