

Good News -of- Great Joy

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 December 10, 2023

“Joy for the Lowly”

Luke 1:5, 26-28, 38-42, 46-53, 12:48; 1 Corinthians 1:27-28; James 4:10; Philippians 2:2-4; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

I. The Rich and Powerful

- A. Over the past several years, the news has been filled with stories of _____ figures that fall from grace after being accused of sexual assault or harassment.
- B. Luke starts the Christmas story by telling us that _____ was king of Judea.
- C. King Herod was a power-hungry megalomaniac who was willing to be ruthless and do whatever it takes to get what he _____.

II. The Annunciation

- A. In the time of Mary, Nazareth was a _____, insignificant village.
- B. Most often, when God chooses someone for a special purpose, he chooses the _____ likely people.
- C. One way that God may chose you for his purposes is to _____ yourself before him.

III. The Magnificat

- A. The meaning of _____ in the Bible is to be right in the middle of God’s plans.
- B. The rhythm of the _____ life is to wake up every day and say “Here I am Lord, do with me whatever you want.”
- C. Mary’s Magnificat is her hymn of _____ to God.

IV. Finding Joy

- A. _____ is found when we humble ourselves.
- B. When we practice _____ and share with those in need, they receive joy and we receive joy in the process.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 11-16, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

God chose a teenage peasant girl from an insignificant tiny village to be the mother of the Messiah. He sends the Angel Gabriel to tell her the news and Mary is very confused. But at the end of their conversation, Mary says "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled." Mary goes to visit her relative Elizabeth and after Elizabeth supports and encourages Mary, Mary sings her Magnificat. So what do we learn from Mary about the source of joy?

Monday: Luke 1:5-20

As in Abraham and Sarah's story (Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7), God's messenger said Elizabeth would bear the child they'd prayed for all those years. Was that "good news" (verse 19) that was "too good to be true"? Are you ever tempted to see faith and hope as naive and foolish? Have you known any people of faith who were anything but naive and foolish?

Tuesday: Luke 1:21-25

Luke's story was no "once upon a time" tale. It was about real people and places, which he said he'd verified with eyewitnesses (cf. Luke 1:1-4). He began, as we read yesterday, "During the rule of King Herod of Judea." Does it help you to trust Luke's story that he gave many names and dates that people in his day could easily have verified? Why or why not?

Wednesday: Luke 1:26-38

People in Mary's day understood the basics of human reproduction as well as we do - a virgin could NOT be pregnant. Yet that was what Gabriel promised (verse 31). Mary didn't try to hide her puzzled questions (verse 34), but she was open to the angel's answer. Her final response was an awe-inspiring model for us: "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." What does it take for you to respond to God's call as Mary did?

Thursday: Luke 1:39-45

Even before Jesus' birth, Elizabeth was the first person to call him "Lord." In what ways does calling Jesus "Lord" involve giving up the right to live your life in any way you please? In what ways has Jesus' lordship changed your life and brought a different kind of joy into it?

Friday: Luke 1:46-55

Mary's song went on to recognize that the eternal king God was sending would turn upside down many human values that had always tended to rule the world. How willing are you to use your God-given ability to lift the burdens borne by people who have fewer of life's good things than you have? When have you found joy in lifting up "the lowly," in filling "the hungry with good things"?

MOVING FORWARD

God chooses the poor and powerless. But he also chooses and uses those who humble themselves before God and those who are generous. And somehow, those who humble themselves and are generous and those who are poor and powerless meet each other's needs and together we find joy. This is what we learn from Mary's story and her Magnificat.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) powerful, B) Herod, C) wants. IIA) tiny, B) least, IIC) humble. IIIA) blessed, B) Christian, C) praise. IVA) Joy, B) generosity.