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Christmas

devotions

2023

DEVOTION #03: LUKE 1:39-56

Christmas's First Song



Read:

Luke 1:39-56

Mary Visits Elizabeth & Mary's Song

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Devotional

Sing a song of hope

Every year in England, they hold a Christmas Song Competition. The title of #1 Christmas Song of the Year is hot property, and last year, the winning song was about a Christmas sausage roll. I'm not joking.

For weeks now, the shops have been filling up with tinsel and glitter, and you're probably already sick of Mariah Carey following you wherever you go. The classics are blasting - you know the ones I mean. Deck the Halls. O Holy Night. Jingle Bells. Christmas Sausage Rolls. All the good ones. However, there's one Christmas song that's never included in any Spotify Christmas playlist - in fact, most people don't even know it exists.

In Luke 1:46-55, Mary's lifts up a prayer of praise that has become known as the OG Christmas song. Often called The *Magnificat* (latin for magnifying), this song is an expression of joy and gratitude. Mary acknowledges that she is only a 'humble servant', and reflects on all the mighty things that God has done throughout history. Mary finds great confidence in the reminder that God's mighty works will continue on for generations, and most of all, she marvels at the fact that these mighty works will be made possible by the baby growing inside her.

Whether it's at church or at Coles, think about the words you're singing this Christmas. May they remind you that our holy, mighty God sent his son into the world to redeem us, and give you confidence that he will continue to do good things in this world.