

Our theme for today: God saves even the lowliest.

Have the words of Mary's Song (from yesterday) been playing in your heart and mind? I hope they have. Mary's Song is filled with joy, it's filled with pathways that help recover our joy. As you look over the verses, I hope you'll reflect upon them, meditate upon them, and that those pathways will be brightly lit up so you can see a way ahead; a joyful way ahead – and not just for this season, but also for all the days ahead. As you see those pathways, and know that your steps have a place to walk, we hope that ever increasing joy will be yours. I pray that as you experience His assurances that you will rejoice and sing your gratitude in return.

Scripture

⁴⁶ *My soul magnifies the Lord,*
⁴⁷ *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*
⁴⁸ *for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."*

Luke 1:46-48

Thought provokers

- The three verses above reveal that Mary is telling us that her joy is deep within her. This is joy that springs from her soul; it is like a fountain from her spirit. It's not based simply on a good feeling nor is it based solely upon her circumstances and neither is it temporary – she has an emotion that is truly deep within her. It goes to the inner core of who she is.
 - Why do you think she has this inner joy? What do the above three verses tell you?

Reflections

Mary has landed on and been blessed with a foundation of spiritual proportions. She has a foundation that is a firm foundation – she has a rock to stand on! Mary has a truth within her that is deeply embedded. That knowledge is the truth that God has regarded her humble estate. The great God of the universe who has created all things, who is sovereign master of all – He actually "*knows*" Mary. He has regarded her humble estate – because He has looked upon her and looked upon her with favor – even though she deems herself a lowly servant. He knows her name, He knows her humble circumstances. He wants to give her favor. Our God who is above us and beyond us, is a God who is with us. Mary knows this and she calls Him... *God my Savior*. Mary knows that God has saved her.

This young woman, a lowly servant, has been saved by God. God has not been distant or detached. God has not been untouched nor unmoved. God has been compassionate and

caring. He has been close, He has connected. Truly, we can see, can we not, that “*God is with us.*”

We might ask, “*what hope is there to be found that might recover joy; indeed, is there any hope that might bring joy?*”

There is a pathway to hope, there is a pathway to joy. God has come to us. God is with us! He will lead us on!

Prayer and Song

Take time to pray and sing praises to Him. Here is one by J. Wilbur Chapman.

Our Great Savior

*Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me,
he, my Savior, makes me whole.*

Refrain:

*Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
he is with me to the end.*

*Jesus! what a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. [Refrain]*

*Jesus! what a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking,
he, my comfort, helps my soul. [Refrain]*

*Jesus! what a guide and keeper!
While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'ertakes me,
he, my pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain]*

*Jesus! I do now receive him,
more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness,
I am his, and he is mine. [Refrain]*