

God's Mercy Mixed with His Power and Judgments Upon Mankind

Luke 1:50-53 50 His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Last Lord's Day we heard Mary's deep heartfelt thanksgiving for that mercy of God which she had experienced in her own person; *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."* This morning we come to the second part of Mary's praise as she celebrates God's attributes of mercy, power, judgments and rewards. First we shall find comfort in God's kindness to us, then we shall marvel at His authority over the nations, and finally we shall rejoice in the reward that awaits us as His chosen people.

A. Mary declares that God's mercy is on them that fear Him

1. Mercy is that grace of God toward man that all guilty sinners stand in need of
2. Our need of mercy signifies that all men are equally lost - *from generation to generation*

Ps 14:2-3 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

3. Two things then can be learned by our need of mercy
 - a. Speaks of man's guilt and thus proclaims that there is nothing in any man that would cause God to save him
 - b. Mercy simply proclaims that He saves man freely of His own will, purpose and choosing alone
4. God's mercy is offered to all, but only extended to those who fear Him
5. How blessed you are if you have a certain fear of God this morning
6. Blessed because God has made you aware of the following:
 - a. His rightful authority over mankind
 - b. The goodness and righteousness of His law
 - c. That you have broken His perfect law
 - d. That there is a coming day of judgment
 - e. And that you deserve God's wrath
7. Therefore you have a fear of God born of logic
8. A fear born out of wisdom that causes you to cry out - God be merciful to me a sinner
9. When we hear of God's mercy from the lips of Mary, it is as if we hear these words:
 - a. Christ came to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10)
 - b. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15)

B. Mary rejoices that God rules over the ungodly - *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones.*

1. Throughout Scripture the arm of God speaks of His power
2. In these few words Mary proclaims the history of God amongst the nations of the world
 - a. The overthrow of Egypt at the sea having made a mockery of their gods
 - b. When God used a young David to bring down the boastful Goliath
 - c. Dealt with the proud - reducing Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty king of Babylon to the status of a wild beast
 - d. Cyrus, king of Persia, was used as God's servant to restore Israel to the land
 - e. Summed up for us in the words of Daniel

Dan 4:25 The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

- f. He removed Saul and raised up the youngest son of Jesse with the promise of a coming Messiah
- g. The four great ancient kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome are but instruments to punish, protect and provide Israel as a means through whom the Messiah would come.
- h. Christ becomes that Rock cut without hands that will shatter the kingdoms of this world and set up a Kingdom that will fill the earth
- i. Finally through the seed of woman Satan's kingdom is destroyed forever and that Seed of the virgin, that Seed of Abraham shall reign upon the throne of David forever

C. And then Mary finds comfort in this that God exalts the lowly - *He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly*

- 1. Abraham and his descendant were chosen of God not because of their greatness in size or power but simply because the Lord loved them

Deut 7:6-8 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you

- 2. A bit of history will provide an example of God's blessing upon Abraham's descendants
 - a. One of his grandsons, Joseph was raised from prison to 2nd in command of Egypt
 - b. His descendants reduced to a small insignificant body of slaves in Egypt became the nation of the Hebrews.
 - c. Of that small nation David a shepherd boy became King of Israel
 - d. David's son, Solomon reigned from the river Euphrates to river of Egypt fulfilling the promise made to Abraham
 - e. Mary is born of that lineage and has conceived in her womb that promised Seed of Abraham
 - (1) She has been told that He shall be great and of His kingdom there will be no end
 - (2) She has within her womb the King of kings in whom all the nations of the earth have been blessed
- 3. Jesus chooses a small group of men, fishermen, a tax collector and others of humble birth of whom the Sanhedrin marveled, noting that the disciples, being uneducated and ignorant men had been with Jesus
- 4. The church small in the eyes of the world has outlasted Rome, the Holy Roman Empire and will be victorious on that coming great day

Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

D. He provides for the needed and sends away those who do not need Him - *He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.*

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Most men do not see their need of God
Most men think of themselves as self-sufficient

Therefore on that great day they will only hear those dreadful words, "depart I never knew you."

But because you have been made to see the holiness of God
You cry out - Woe is me for I am undone

It is because you have felt that heavy burden of sin you heard from the lips of our Lord,
"Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

And by grace you have been made to hear this call from your Redeemer,
"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come; buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isa 55:1

Because you saw your need and came to Christ to you He will say, "Enter into the Kingdom prepared for you where you will never lack eternally.