When In Doubt, Sing Out 12.18.11

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. Luke 1:46-56 ESV

P: Mary is a "hero" that points us to the "Hero."

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

Magnify-to make or declare great. 2 Ways to Magnify: A microscope (makes tiny things visible). A telescope (makes enormous things visible). This is the latter.

Rejoices-to exult, celebrate, rejoice greatly. The right response to the good news.

P: Our God is the Lord and the Savior.

Am I living like and resting in the fact that He is Lord.?

Lord-Sovereign, Ruler, King over All.

Savior-Rescuer, Deliverer. Also shows us that she recognizes that she, herself, needs to be rescued. No immaculate conception as Catholic theology teaches.

Do I recognize God as the Lord and that He has absolute claim over my life? If not, why not?

Do I recognize that we need a Savior to save us from our sins and ourselves? What are the 'functional saviors' that I look to instead of Jesus? What needs to change in these areas?

"for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed"

"Humble..." - lit. humiliation.Servant - could be translated "slave." *"blessed"*-happy

P: Our God sees and knows everything about everyone.

1. God knows about our suffering.
2. We cannot hide from God.

How do I need to apply this truth to my life this morning? How does it encourage and challenge me?

"for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

P: Our God is mighty and holy.

Mighty-Strong, powerful. He can do ANYTHING. Nothing is too hard for Him.

When was the last time I stopped to reflect on the might of God? When was the last time I took inventory of the great things He has done in my life?

When was the last time I stopped to reflect on His holiness and all of its implications? That He calls us to "be holy as He is holy?"

"And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

Mercy-not giving us the wrath that we justly deserve.

P: Our God is merciful to all who fear Him.

Have I experienced that mercy firsthand? Do I share the Good News of God's mercy with others?

"He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate"

P: Our God is strong.

How does this truth encourage me today? Do I lean on His strength or do I try to live in my own?

P: Our God humbles the exalted and exalts the humble.

How do I need to apply this truth in my own life?

"he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."

P: Our God in generous and just.

Am I reflecting His generosity and justice? Do I long for the day when these will be fully revealed?

"He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

P: Our God has a long history of faithfulness to His people.

Do I leverage the long history of God's faithfulness recorded in the Scriptures?

Jesus is the embodiment of all of these attributes. He is also our only hope for living well in light of them.

Works Consulted: *Message by Mark Driscoll, Expositor's Commentary, MacArthur Study Bible, ESV Study Bible, NIV Application Commentary, The Bible Exposition Commentary, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, A Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Old and New Testaments, The Holiness of God by RC Sproul, The Attributes of God by AW Pink*