

**30 Days Together**  
**“Immanuel - God With Us”**  
**#30daystogether**

**Day #19 – Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Text: Luke 1:46-55**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

**Devotion:** Adam Peitsch

Mary’s world has been turned upside-down. We saw that in our devotion yesterday - when the angel Gabriel announced to her that she would be the mother of Jesus! In today’s passage, Mary was visiting Elizabeth, her relative (the Bible doesn’t exactly tell us HOW they were related - possibly some sort of cousin) who was also miraculously pregnant with the baby who would be John the Baptist! God was moving in Mary’s life and in Mary’s family.

When Mary was told she’d give birth to the son of God, she, in great humility, accepted God’s plan for her. Here we see something different - joy. This passage is known as the “Magnificat” - Mary’s song of praise. And what joy there is in it! God’s great deeds, proclaimed by a humble, young girl that God chose to use for amazing purposes. What I really want to focus on though is verse 48-49 - “He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant...the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.”

Has it ever been clear to you that God is using you for something? Has God ever chosen you - maybe not as miraculously as Mary - to accomplish His purpose? It’s possible you didn’t even know until after the fact (unlike our friend Mary here). It can be SO easy to get caught up in “wow, I’m so great! Look what I did!” or “boy, I’m sure glad God decided to use me to do this big thing, on account of the fact that I’m so awesome!”. I’ve done it. It can be difficult to remember that GOD is mighty - and, sorry, but I am not. YOU are not. When God calls us, when we are immensely blessed to be used for his purposes, it isn’t because we deserved it or did something amazing that God took notice. Look at Mary - she was essentially a child. Not spectacular, no huge rich family, big social status, she’s unmarried. Elizabeth - her husband was a priest - but she was old. Old enough that the Bible tells us that she was called “barren” before she became pregnant.

There’s so many examples in the Bible. Gideon was a no-body. Moses was afraid of public speaking. David was the youngest in his family, small, weak. Paul/Saul persecuted Christians. Matthew was a tax collector - and so was Zaccheus. And yet, you and I are both sinners, and God chooses to use us to accomplish His infinitely great purposes - whatever those may be.

Like Mary, we respond with humility - but we should also choose to respond in joy and in awe. Mary’s song is a song of praise, but it’s also a song of gratitude. God used her in her humility. How is God using you? God used Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and the prophets all to prepare a way for Jesus, the Savior. God can use you the same way. The Mighty One has taken notice of us, in our humble state, in our sin, in our mess. Advent is about God meeting us in our mess and coming down to us anyway. May your soul magnify the Lord today and your Spirit rejoice in God, Your Savior!

Closing Prayer: Mighty God, thank you for seeing me. Thank you for taking notice of me even in the middle of my sin, of my mess, of my insignificance. I praise you that in Your holiness, you still chose ME. Help me live each day according to Your calling, never forgetting that even if I feel small and useless, You can work in the middle of it. Amen.