

This message covers the praise rendered by Mary when she went from Nazareth to the city of Judah to visit Elizabeth after she learned from the angel that Elizabeth was with child. The following are what we can learn from Mary and Elizabeth on how we ought to praise the Lord:

1. The Burden of Singing (Luke 1:39-40): Mary had a burden to praise the Lord. And she made haste and all diligence to go and visit Elizabeth, because she learned that Elizabeth was with child. Her diligence and urgency in going to seek Elizabeth was due to her burden to rejoice in the Lord and share her thanksgiving with Elizabeth of the promise she received from the angel. In Mary’s thanksgiving, Elizabeth was also moved to praise the Lord.

2. The Attitude of Singing (Luke 1:41-45): On hearing Mary’s voice, the baby leapt in Elizabeth’s womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41). In Luke 1:42, Elizabeth “*spoke out with a loud voice*”, showing the true genuine joy in her heart. It was a loud voice of praise. She praised the Lord by repeating the words of Angel Gabriel: “*Blessed art thou among women*” (Luke 1:28). The attitude of Elizabeth’s praise was one of great joy. The word “*joy*” (Luke 1:44) refers to exceeding, great joy. It is a superlative for most joyful. And Elizabeth acknowledged her Messiah when she called Mary “*the mother of my Lord*” (Luke 1:43).

When praising the Lord, the first step is to be filled with the Holy Ghost. The second is to ensure that our manner of worship is in line with God’s Word, and thus pleases Him. The words that we sing must be consistent with God’s Word.

In Luke 1:45, Elizabeth pronounced a blessing on Mary, and could see that Mary trusted the words of the Lord. Mary trusted the Lord to complete what He promised and to bring it to fruition. Mary’s attitude in the worship of God was one of trust and faith in God’s Word, despite her situation of being unmarried, and yet with child.

3. The Manner of Singing (Luke 1:46-55). To praise the Lord is to magnify (to make large) God. It does not add to His greatness, but we magnify our view of God and His attributes in our hearts. And it was Mary’s soul that magnified the Lord, i.e. it came from her heart. Mary had a right view of herself (Luke 1:48), and she understood that it was purely God’s choice and working that she was chosen to bear the Son of God. She praised God exactly for that. When we praise and worship the Lord, it must be due to our personal experience of God.

In Luke 1:49-50, Mary praised the Lord as “*mighty*” which ties in to her experience of God in her life. She praised God for His might and holiness, the attributes of God she had experienced.

In Luke 1:51-55, Mary also praised and thanked God for His work in guiding, protecting and leading Israel despite their disobedience. She knew also that God would deal with sinners.

Worship comes with a heart of praise to God. The life of a Christian is a life of praise.

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