



Mary's Song of Exaltation (Magnificat)

Key idea:

Worship is focused on God and His Gospel, is formed and filled by the Word of God, and arises from personally experiencing God's faithfulness to His people through the ages.

Key text:

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Key points:

1. Worship is focused on God and His work, not on ourselves.
2. True worship is centered on the gospel through which God saves.
3. Worship is formed and filled by the Word of God.
4. Worship arises from personal experience of God's faithfulness to His people through the ages.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Mary's response to Elizabeth's praise demonstrate humility and God-centeredness? How can we cultivate a similar attitude in our own lives?

2. The sermon mentions that Mary's song is filled with Scripture references. How does immersing ourselves in God's Word enhance our ability to worship?
3. Discuss the balance between personal experience and corporate worship. How do these two aspects complement each other in Mary's song?
4. How does understanding God's faithfulness throughout history impact our worship today? Share an example of how God's past faithfulness has encouraged you personally.
5. The sermon emphasizes that true worship is impossible without personally experiencing God's saving work. How has your experience of God's grace influenced your worship?
6. Reflect on the cycle of experiencing God's work, leading to worship, which then leads to fresh experiences of God. How have you seen this play out in your own spiritual life?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Scripture Immersion: Commit to reading a portion of Scripture daily this week, focusing on passages that speak of God's character and works.
2. Worship Journaling: Keep a journal this week, noting moments when you experience God's presence or work in your life. Use these reflections to fuel your worship.
3. Corporate Worship Preparation: Before the next Sunday service, spend time in prayer and reflection, preparing your heart to engage fully in corporate worship.
4. Gospel Meditation: Choose one aspect of the gospel message to meditate on each day this week, allowing it to deepen your appreciation for God's saving work.
5. Historical Faith Connection: Research a figure from church history or read a historical Christian text to connect with the faith of believers across the ages.