

SERMON SUNDAY 19TH

DECEMBER 2021.

“What Mary Knew”

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a & Luke

1:39-45



Summary: Elizabeth had the perfect words to encourage the heart of Mary. This message is a look at Mary’s response and praise, Mary felt: safe, special, sanctified, strong, successful, satisfied, and significant!

Tradition suggests that Mary was between 14 and 16 years of age when the Angel visited her. She probably was busy preparing herself for her upcoming marriage, guests, food, excitement – when all of sudden, standing before her was an Angel – bright and brilliant.

Can you imagine Mary’s reaction to what the Angel told her? We are not told how long it was before Mary hurried to see her aged cousin, Elizabeth but it would be doubtful that Mary had confidence in anyone else about her status of pregnancy.

Have you even been in a situation where you are told of exciting news and just couldn’t wait to tell someone close to you about it?

But Mary could have been worried as she met up with Elizabeth. Her thoughts could have been: “what will Elizabeth say or do when she finds out? Will I be banished from the family? I just need someone to confide in and support me cos this is a bit scary. Can you imagine how full of desperation that Mary must have felt?

But when the angel mentioned to her that her aged cousin, Elizabeth, was also with child, her excitement for Elizabeth may have been the uppermost thing in her mind.

So here is Mary at Elizabeth's house, standing just outside and wondering – what will the reaction be? How will I tell Elizabeth this news?

God had prepared Elizabeth's heart with just the right words of encouragement to say to Mary, which she so desperately needed.

Elizabeth did not ask lots of grueling questions of Mary to ascertain the purity of her condition – in fact, her baby son John, jumped in her womb in acknowledgement of who the baby was that Mary was carrying.

From these words, Mary recorded a wonderful song of praise and prayer that has become known as "Mary's Magnificat."

Question: Are you an encouragement to others when they come into your presence?

Let us consider how God used Elizabeth to make Mary feel:

Mary says – my soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

1. Mary felt Safe.

Elizabeth was married to the priest Zechariah. The last place that I would think that Mary would have found "safety" would be in the home of the very person who had the priestly role of condemning unmarried mothers! But God had already muted Zechariah and softened the heart

of Elizabeth for her coming. Mary's soul was magnifying the Lord and in her spirit, Mary was rejoicing in the God of her salvation. She felt safe.

2. Mary felt Special.

Although there would those in her present generation that might condemn her for her untimely pregnancy, she knew that forthcoming generations would become convinced of the truth. Jesus would be born of a virgin. She would be the mother of the Christ Child. Mary felt special.

3. Mary felt Sanctified.

Mary was not a harlot, she was "holy!" A Holy God had placed his "Holy Son" within her womb. Mary felt holy.

4. Mary felt Strong.

Can you imagine how weak and helpless a 14-16 year old unmarried pregnant girl must have felt in this city that was not her own? Yet in the text, Mary talks about the "strength" of God's arm. Her strength was in the Lord. Mary felt strong.

5. Mary felt Successful.

There was no one of any lower degree than Mary. But through the gift of Christ, she had been exalted. Success is when we reach our potential in Christ Jesus. Jesus was growing inside of the very person of Mary. Mary felt successful.

6. Mary felt Satisfied.

Jesus was a "good thing." Herod and his soldiers would be sent away empty, but Mary and Joseph would be satisfied with the presence of their Christ child. Can you imagine the blessedness that Mary must have felt when she was giving milk to very Son of God? Mary felt satisfied.

7. Mary felt Significant.

The most important event of all human history was to take place and Mary would have the pivotal role in the pageantry of the birth of the Christ child. She had been told that her son would become "King of kings and Lord of lords!" Mary would play the mother. Mary felt significant.

Here are three questions for your consideration:

How do others make you feel?

How do you make others feel?

How does God make you feel?

If you have received Christ into your heart, you have the same blessedness within you that Mary had within her on the day that she had prayed this blessed prayer of praise!