

12-23-18

### **A New Song**

**Luke 1:46-56** <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." <sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

**Luke 8:20-21** <sup>20</sup>Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." <sup>21</sup>He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

- I. Mary praises God for all the blessings she has **received** from God. Her song has an Old Testament flavor (like the Psalms).
  - A. He has been **mindful** of her. V. 48
  - B. He has been **merciful** to her. V. 50, 54
  - C. He has performed **mighty** deeds for her to see. V. 51-55
- II. Here are some important **truths** from this song.
  - A. Mary's relationship to God was not **earned**, it was received.
  - B. Mary stands with us as someone who received God's **unmerited** favor.
  - C. We need to find **avenues** to tell our story of how God has revealed himself to us. We are also blessed!
  - D. It is important that we continue to keep **Christ** the center of Christmas before Christmas is totally redefined. If it gets lost the church needs to rethink how we participate in the solstice celebration.