

Luke 1:46

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord"

It's summertime and in the upper 90's and not Christmas time yet, because Christmas is a little over four months away. But still we will talk a little about Jesus' mother, Mary, because we do not need to wait until Christmas time to talk about her. Mary was a wonderfully blessed woman, but even though she was blessed, do you realize all that she really went through, simply because she was obedient to the Lord and His calling on her life?

First off, she was pregnant before she was married, and you know people talked about that. Even years after Jesus was born, they still talked about it.

† **John 8:41b** *Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God."*

Yes, this is referring to Mary being pregnant before she was married. Also when she was about to give birth to Jesus, we all know the scenario that there was no room for them in the inn. Also that Jesus was born in a stable, which is not a barn like we may think it was, but rather was a cave, and the feeding trough that Jesus was laid in when He was born was probably a huge rock chiseled out in the middle to hold the food for the animals, not a nice wooden cradle as the pictures depict.

† **Luke 2:7** *And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Also for Mary to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about a 70-mile trek, which normally would have taken about four days, but with a woman about to give birth any day, it may have taken up to a week as you had to move/travel slower. There were no Ubers, taxis, planes or cars or even a chariot to ride in. The journey was traveled on foot and possibly with a donkey or a camel. Also it was not winter, and it could have been the time of year that the temperature was in the upper 90's like we are feeling in Texas and other parts of the USA right now, or even triple digits during this time in the dry desert.

So all that Mary had to endure; have you ever noticed that there is one thing that is never said about Mary, or recorded her doing or saying? Think about it, the one thing we never read or hear about is Mary complaining or whining.

Get pregnant before you are married with everyone you know talking about you all your life for getting pregnant and having a child before you are married (Which was a huge ordeal back in these days). Traveling a long hot sticky journey for a week through the desert to have a baby in a cave, without any blankets or a proper bed to lay your baby in, or to rest on after having a baby, but rather a dirty floor, possibly covered with a little hay.

Watching your first-born Son, now 33 years old, being hung on a cross with His body ripped to shreds from the scourging and beating and knowing He never, ever did anything wrong and you

having to watch Him die there nailed to a cross which was made for criminals, but not your perfect Son.

We would think that Mary would have had every right to complain to God. After all, He chose her, she didn't choose to be the mother of the Son of God. But that's our good old USA mentality. We want to be used by God, but if it gets a little uncomfortable, how quick are we to give second thoughts to what we are doing for the Lord and wonder if it really is the Lord that called us into this ministry, because it's so hard and I just can't deal with it anymore, why God, why, WHY???

But not Mary, which brings us back to today's verse, which tells us what Mary actually did and said, which was: ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***. All that Mary went through and once again her response to all of it is ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***.

So, what has God called you to do and are you saying *"Why, God, Why?"* or are you saying, ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***. Yes I am talking ministry here. But what was Mary's ministry? Raising Jesus and her family was her ministry. We always think of ministry as preaching the bible and doing in the church, but ministry goes way beyond that. It could be how you are at your job and how others see you doing your job. Even when things get tough and others are compromising, are you compromising and complaining as well, or do they see you with the attitude of ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***?

Or maybe you are like Mary, and you are raising a family. Are you complaining and ready to throw in the towel because it's too much to handle raising kids, or having to work and it seems your money goes faster than you can make it, because you are raising a family and you are getting frustrated? Or are you thankful for your family that God has given you, just like Mary was, so you are saying, ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***?

Maybe your ministry is in the church, but you do those invisible jobs that no one sees, and you never get appreciated by others because no one knows you are doing them, or they know you are, but still no one says thank you. Are you ready to just give up? If you are, then you are doing it for man and not God. Or are you truly doing it for the Lord; therefore, you can say in the unseen ministry, ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***?

God has given us ALL things to do for His glory while we are here on this earth, and we all do them as believers, but the real question is, are we doing them and complaining while we do, or are we doing them saying, ***"My soul magnifies the Lord"***!

† **1 Corinthians 10:31** *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

† **Romans 2:10 (NLT2)** *But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile.*