

December 11 Journaling Questions

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

After reading these verses, consider the following:

1. Mary said – How has your view of Mary changed? Usually she is portrayed as a silent character but the Word of God says she wasn't silent – she spoke and when she did after hearing Elizabeth speak to her she praised and glorified the Lord.
2. Mary said “My soul MAGNIFIES the Lord”. Are you magnifying the Lord or are you magnifying your difficulties, challenges, hurts or circumstances? When we magnify the Lord our difficulties are placed in proper perspective.
3. Mary speaks of the mighty things God has done for her – what mighty things has God done for you? Who can you share that with so that they can be encouraged today?

4. Mary says the Lord is mighty – she recognizes that He is ABLE. In what area of your life do you need to be reminded that God is able? Who might need to be reminded of this today?
5. Mary speaks of God’s mercy – where do you need to experience His mercy today? Where might you need to show the mercy of God to others? Who might you encourage today by reminding them of God’s mercy or by showing them His mercy?

Listen to the Magnificat and Breath of Heaven and then reflect on some of these questions about the music and the devotional readings.

1. How did the music speak to you?
2. What did you notice in Mary’s song? What did the Magnificat reveal to you about God?
3. Do you agree with Bonhoeffer about what happens to the great & powerful when they encounter the manger and the cross? Why or why not?
4. On page 29, Amy reminds us that Luke notes that Mary was present at Pentecost (Acts 1:14). Had you ever realized that? And what difference does it make?
5. How are Abraham and Mary similar? (page 30)
6. Before reading this devotional, had you ever noticed how frequently Mary references scripture when speaking? What is one that you noticed?
7. Do you experience wonder as you read all of this? Why or why not?
8. On Dec. 6 Amy talks about Mary magnifying the Lord. It is easy for us to magnify our difficulties and minimize the Lord and what He can do. Is there an area of your life where you need to magnify God and what He can do?
9. Dec 7 Amy talks about Mary saying, “... all generations will call me blessed”. What impact could your prayers have today on future generations? How have you been blessed by the prayers and obedience of others?
10. Have you taken time this week to dwell for a moment on the tenderness of Almighty God, his love for you personally, and his desire to interact with you, to carry and strengthen you even in times of great turmoil and difficulty? (page 52)
11. On page 58, Amy says, “A Godless culture loses the value of human life, and when the image of God slips away, people quickly become reduced to biological matter, statistics, or just nameless commodities.” How have you seen this recently?

12. Dec. 10 Amy talks about mercy and forgiveness - what does it look like walked out? What did Amy say forgiveness and mercy does NOT say on page 65 in the last paragraph?
13. As we give thanks for God's mercy in our own lives, which is possible because of Jesus, is there someone you need to extend forgiveness or mercy to this week? (page 66)
14. This week, what did you learn about Mary that you did not know before?
15. What is the basis for Mary's belief in God's strength, consistency, faithfulness, and power to provide? (Page 72)