A Mother’s Christmas Preparations December 24, 2017

*Luke 1:46-55 Series: Preparing for Christmas*

This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols. It is instead a hard, strong, inexorable song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Intro: Mary prepared for Christmas with a poem that became one of the church’s oldest hymns. But unlike the more sentimental Christmas carols that we sing, this one is more subversive, so dangerous that several governments have reportedly banned it over the last century.

1. Background to the Song of Revolution. (vv. 39-45)
2. A prophetic kick from an unborn baby.

v. 41 *the baby leaped in her womb*

v. 44 *the baby in my womb leaped for joy*

1. A prophetic shout from a pregnant senior.

v. 41 *And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit*

v. 42 *she exclaimed with a loud cry*

v. 43 *the mother of my Lord*

1. A three-fold pronouncement of blessing.

v. 42 *Blessed are you among women*

v. 42 *blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

v. 45 *blessed is she who believed*

* Why would God use an unborn baby and a pregnant senior citizen to confirm the angel’s message to Mary?
* How important is seeking confirmation from others when you feel God might be speaking to you?
* What does it tell you about the unborn that after just six months from conception John can respond with joy to Mary’s greeting and that after mere days from conception Jesus can be referred to as “my Lord” (v. 43)?
1. Mary felt the spark of a revolution. (vv. 46-49)
2. God looked upon someone whom the world overlooked.

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

1. The Almighty God did great things for a weak girl.

v. 49 he who is mighty has done great things for me

* How do you think Mary felt her experience with God might encourage others who felt powerless and looked down upon by the world?
* Why do you think God loves to do great things for weak people?
1. Mary saw the future of a revolution. (vv. 50-55)
2. God responds in mercy to those who fear Him not in reward to those who impress Him.

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

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

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

1. God responds to humility not celebrity.

v. 52 *he has …* *exalted those of humble estate*

v. 53 *he has filled the hungry with good things*

1. God hates pride even more than we do.

v. 51 *he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts*

v. 52 *he has brought down the mighty from their thrones*

v. 53 *the rich he has sent away empty*

* When can you feel that you’re fearing God?
* How can you grow in the fear of God?
* Why does God so emphasize the need for humility?
* Why does God judge pride so severely?

Study ahead: At tonight’s Candlelight Service, we’ll look at Luke 2:1-7.

Notes