

# Home Group Helps

## Luke 1:39-56

### *Old and New Covenants Come Together*

**I. Elizabeth's Old Covenant Fulfillment (v.39-45)** – <sup>39</sup> Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? <sup>44</sup> "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.<sup>45</sup> "And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

### **II. Mary's New Covenant Fulfillment (v.46-56)** –

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul exalts the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

<sup>48</sup> "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;

For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> "For the Mighty One has done great things for me;

And holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup> "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION  
TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

<sup>51</sup> "He has done mighty deeds with His arm;

He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

<sup>52</sup> "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,

And has exalted those who were humble.

<sup>53</sup> "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;

And sent away the rich empty-handed.

<sup>54</sup> "He has given help to Israel His servant,

In remembrance of His mercy,

<sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup> And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

#### **1. Launching Question(s):**

- This text contains two songs. How important is good music to you?

#### **2. Observation Question(s):**

- How might the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary have served to encourage both of them?

#### **3. Interpretation Question(s):**

- Verse 41 states, "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb."
- What does the leaping of John the Baptist in the presence of the in-utero Christ represent?
- What does this tell you of God's view of the unborn?

- In part, this leaping represents a fulfillment of a prophecy made by Gabriel in Luke 1:15 that John the Baptist, “will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.”
- What implications does this truth have on your understanding of how God saves people?
- The sermon examined at least eleven qualities of God mentioned in Mary’s song. Can you point out some of these qualities from the text?

**4. Reflection Question(s):**

- Mary begins her song with the words, “My soul exalts the Lord.” R.C. Sproul defines this to mean, “My soul has been saturated by a sense of the divine and by His presence and by His mercy. And so, from the deepest part of my being, I want to exalt Him.”
- Reflect on what that means. Does your soul “exalt the Lord?”
- If not, how might you begin doing so?
- How does corporate worship on Sunday aid in this exaltation?

**5. Application Question(s):**

- Kent Hughes said of Mary that, “She was a living beatitude, and her soul was a blessed model for all who desire to cultivate the life of Christ in their hearts.”
- How can you be more like Mary this week?

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