

## **The Mystery of Motivation**

*Luke 1:46–55*

# **Introduction: Mary’s Song — The First Christmas Carol**

**God’s love for His people is always in operation—personally and globally.**

When you understand that truth, everything about your motivation for worship, for obedience, and for hope begins to change.

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## **1. He Is Involved With You Personally (vv. 47–50)**

Mary begins her song with language of deep personal experience:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (vv. 46–47).

She does not speak about God as a distant being, but as One who has stepped into the details of her life.

## **His Love Delivers Blessings**

Mary says, “He who is mighty has done great things for me.”

She is not speaking theoretically—she is testifying. The God who spoke galaxies into existence has placed His hand upon a village girl from Nazareth.

## **His Love Shows Mercy**

Mary continues: “His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve. Mercy is God withholding what we *do* deserve. And Mary rejoices because both have found her.

## **Our Responsibility**

In the face of God’s personal involvement, Mary models three responses:

### **Rejoice — Express God’s Goodness**

She begins with praise. Worship is the natural overflow of a heart that sees God’s hand at work. When we stop rejoicing, we often stop noticing.

### **Rehearse — List God’s Blessings**

Mary rehearses the works of God—His faithfulness, His mercy, His strength. One of the most life-giving habits you can practice is to *name* your blessings. Gratitude is a spiritual motivator.

## **Respect — Fear the Lord**

“His mercy is on those who fear Him.”

Fear here is not dread but reverence—acknowledging God’s rightful place and responding with humility and trust.

### **Practical Application**

- Start a “Magnificat list”—a written record of God’s mercies in your life.
  - Begin your prayers with rejoicing before you move to requests.
  - Ask God to renew a holy reverence in your heart so that gratitude and obedience flow naturally.
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## **2. He Is Involved With Us Globally (vv. 51–55)**

Mary’s view expands beyond her own life. She sees that God’s activity is not only personal—it is global, historical, and sovereign.

### **His Control humbles the Proud & Exalts the weak**

“He has scattered the proud... He has put down the mighty from their thrones.”

God does not ignore arrogance, injustice, or institutions that exalt themselves. He is the God who sees, who remembers, and who acts..

### **Practical Application**

- Do not panic when the world seems out of control—God still holds the pen that writes history.
- Remember that God often works through the humble and the weak—so do not disqualify yourself from His purposes.
- Seek to be part of His global mission: pray globally, serve sacrificially, and look for opportunities to encourage those on the margins.

## **Our Responsibility**

### **Remain Humble**

We cannot influence the world for Christ if pride takes root. God does not need impressive people—He needs surrendered people.

## **Remain Hopeful**

Mary sings with confidence about a future she cannot yet see. Hope is not wishful thinking—it is trusting the character of God when circumstances have not caught up yet.

**The love of God is always in operation—always moving toward you, always working for His glory, always shaping your future.**

Let the song of Mary become the song of your heart.

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. What part of Mary's song (Luke 1:46–55) resonates most with your current season of life—and why?
2. How have you recently experienced God's personal involvement (His blessings or His mercy)?
3. Why is it important to "rehearse" God's blessings regularly? What are some practical ways to do this?
4. Where do you see evidence of God's global involvement in our world today—His humbling of the proud or His lifting up of the weak?
5. What steps can you take this week to remain humble and hopeful in a world filled with uncertainty?