WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: Christmas Series: Mary Part 1 of 4
Key Scripture: Luke 1:46-55
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/christmas-series-2023
Date + Speaker: November 26, 2023; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA (the suggested 'take away' for this study derived from the sermon): This Advent season let's be as Mary and magnify, glorify and rejoice in God. Let's humble ourselves before Him. This highlights His bigness and our smallness/helplessness. Let's acknowledge Him. He WILL lift us up, satisfy us and help us.

Starter Question:
1. What is your favourite Christmas carol and why? [This passage is a song. It might be considered the 'first' Christmas carol]

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):
2. READ the key scripture in its entirety. Consider reading it a second time in a different translation. What do you know/have you been taught about Mary? [Review facts; identify where we may have over OR under estimated her importance]
3. Looking at her song, what attributes of God can you identify? [Identifying verbs can sometimes point to characteristics; Pastor Mark highlighted God's MINDFULNESS, MIGHT and MERCY]

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):
4. Reread verse 50. To whom does God's mercy extend? How does the fear of the Lord help to keep one humble? Asked a different way, how is pride an offence to God?
5. Reread verses 51b and 52. What relationship could pride have with the scattered thoughts and discouragement you might be experiencing? [Some discouragement and dismay comes from legitimate helplessness dealing with circumstances beyond our control – we will talk about that in question 7]

6. Reread verse 53. What does this seem to suggest about (spiritual) hunger and fullness? [Psalm 23:1 says that the Lord is our Shepherd and we lack no good thing. Paradoxically, perpetual spiritual hunger appears to best position us to receive from the Lord]
7. Reread verses 54 and 55. Share examples of and discuss the differences between legitimate helplessness and learned helplessness or victimhood. [Examples might include things like: facing *circumstances beyond our control* like the grief that follows the death of a spouse or child or how sin separates us from God OR feeling hopeless and helpless in *circumstances well within ones ability to control* like when someone is abusive to us as an adult and we say/do nothing to promote a healthy interaction in the future)
8. Reflecting on the meaning of the Greek word translated 'helped' (to take hold of, to embrace, to hug, to support, to help) how does this leave you feeling? How can you remember and rejoice in God's mercy, might, mindfulness and help this week?
9. Prayer point: Let's pray that personally and corporately we would be humble, be spiritually hungry and be willing to accept, admit and ask Him for help.