

‘Twas the chapter before Christmas

AN ADVENT STUDY THROUGH LUKE 1

**STONEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
TEACHING NOTES**

DATE SUNDAY, DEC 11, 2022

SPEAKER MARK FARROW

Mary’s Song of Praise

Luke 1:39-56

Mary finds out she’s pregnant with the promised Messiah and “*with haste*” travels (a distance of *probably* 100 kilometers) to visit her relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth’s baby in her womb leaps for joy at the sound of Mary’s greeting, and Mary sings what we could call the first Christmas carol. It’s a song of praise and thanksgiving to the God who gives us the privilege of being used of Him in His redemptive work in this world.

(1) What can we learn from Mary’s visit with Elizabeth? (v. 39-45)

(2) What can we learn from Mary’s song? (v. 46-59)

The Old Testament in the Magnificat:

- v. 46 – Psalm 34:3; 69:30; 35:9
- v. 47 – Habakkuk 3:18
- v. 48 – 1 Samuel 1:11; cf. Genesis 29:32
- v. 49 – Deut. 10:21; Psalm 24:8; 111:9
- v. 50 – Psalm 103:11, 17
- v. 53 – Psalm 107:9; 146:7
- v. 54 – Isaiah 41:8; Psalm 98:3
- v. 55 – Gen. 12:7; 22:15-18; Mic. 7:20

Further Reflection

1. Why would Mary travel “with haste” to Zechariah and Elizabeth’s house? Why the urgency? What can we learn from this?
2. Why does Luke make it a point to tell us that the baby in Elizabeth’s womb *leaped for joy* at the sound of Mary’s greeting?
3. Based on what we read in this passage, how do you think Mary would respond to someone who tries to worship her or pray to her?
4. Read the OT references in the notes above. How did Mary know all this? What can we learn from Mary about the best preparation for praise and prayer?
5. *Reflection:* Could you say the same words Mary spoke in v. 46-47 and mean it?