

THE MAGNIFICAT II: Basic Principle of Christmas

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's Song magnifies (enlarges our vision of) the Lord:
He is Mighty and Holy
He is also Mindful and Merciful

Mercy in v50 and 54-55 is a Frame around the way He acts as Judge of the world and history:

Mercy to those who **fear** Him (v50)
Puts **down** the proud (v51b, 52a)
Lifts **up** the humble (v52b, 53a)
Puts **down** proud (v53b)
Mercy faithful to those in covenant with Him (v54-55)

3x abase; 4x exalts = 7 times (does so perfectly)

I. He _____ the _____ (v51-53)

- Pharaoh
- Canaanite rulers
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Belshazzar
- Herod the Great
- Augustus Caesar
- Pope Leo X
- Napoleon
- Hitler
- Today...

Some tests of a proud heart

II. He _____ the _____ (v50-53)

- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Gideon
- Hannah
- Ruth
- David
- Daniel
- Mary

III. JESUS (v54-55)

The principle of Phil 2:5-11

- His parents (royal David's line disgraced, in poverty; Mary exalted)
- Born in a manger
- Hounded by Herod
- Raised as a carpenter in Nazareth
- No home or wealth of His own
- Death on a cross

But... **rose again** and seated at Right Hand of God in power and Glory (Lk 1:31-33; Phil 2:9-11; cf Eph 1:19-23)

Lessons for us:

1. Think what this Song means to your brothers & sisters under persecution. Pray for them this Christmas.
2. Support politics of humility, not raw power.
3. Is _____ something you fight or affirm?
4. CPC's future: tempting to simply come up with a plan for growth and improved ministry. Need **humble** ourselves before the Lord. Jan 2 session half day of prayer to seek and hear from God. Pray for us some half hour 8am to 1pm?
5. Put a tiny box under your Christmas tree to remind you that the best gift you will ever receive is the humble Babe Who gave Himself on a cross, to lift you up from death-pride to eternal Life.

Christmas is very good news for the humble

And very bad news for the proud

Only Jesus can give you a humble heart

With the hope of being lifted up to Glory with Him when He returns!

On a morning that infinitely outshines Christmas, with no disappointments