

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, And exalted *the* lowly. ⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things, And *the* rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of *His* mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Introduction

Two weeks ago we started a 3 session expository message about the first Christmas from Luke's Gospel. In the first session from Luke Chapter 1: v. 26-45 we discovered the following; The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and informed her that God's Grace had been especially poured into her life at this time.

She was going to have a special Son, who would be a boy and she must call his name Jesus.

In the Hebrew language, the word is "Yeshua".

The purpose of this baby was to bring Salvation into the whole world.

It was not just a message for the Jewish nation but this Salvation would be available for the whole world.

The Angel declared that this baby would be called the "Son of the Highest".

The term in Hebrew means "unique" and not like any of the other gods that people worshipped.

This baby would also grow up to be a King with an "Everlasting" Kingdom.

Mary believed the words of the Angel but enquired how this could happen, because she was a virgin.

The Angel informed her that God's Holy Spirit would come upon her and the baby would be planted into her womb.

We discovered that the virgin birth is essential to the Christmas story because everybody born into this world through the seed of a man was born with a sinful nature.

Mary had to be a virgin and God's Holy Spirit had to somehow put Jesus Christ into her womb in a supernatural way.

This is why the title of my message two weeks ago was the "God of the impossible"

Mary submitted to the words of the Angel Gabriel and immediately went to visit her relative Elizabeth who was also expecting a baby in her old age.

Elizabeth had been unable to have a child all of her life.

During this visit, Mary had confirmation from Elizabeth that her encounter with the Angel Gabriel was not a dream, it had actually happened. This encouraged Mary.

Mary's response to all of these events was to break out into song.

She was so joyful about her situation that she wanted to praise God in song.

This song is so "Revolutionary" in its contents that the first missionaries to India were told never to read it out in public.

Therefore, I have decided to call my sermon today, "the Revolution Song."

Why is this song so "Revolutionary"?

Well basically because it tells us the truth about God and what He intends to do through the life of His Son Jesus Christ.

A revolutionary is somebody who wants to change the world and make it a better place, in their opinion.

However, we know that the only way to change the world is to change the hearts of people in this world.

We also know that no human being has ever succeeded in changing the sinful hearts of mankind in the whole of world history.

Only Jesus Christ, through His Holy Spirit can change people's hearts.

Even then, it is only God's Holy Spirit that enables us to live like Jesus as we submit to His control in our lives.

When people hear the message that Mary delivers in song, they either get angry, ignore it or come to God and say please save ME!!!

Mary's song, often called the "Magnificat" because of the Latin word to "Magnify". It is saturated in quotes from the old Testament.

Mary was a Jewish girl who took her scripture memory seriously.

Because she has memorized portions of scripture, when the time came for her to sing from her heart, out came the scriptures.

It is so important for Christians of all ages to commit themselves to Scripture Memorization.

Once you have memorized it, then it is in your brain for life.

God can use it in many ways, for you personally and for others that God's Holy Spirit wishes to speak it.

Psalm 119:v. 11 says "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you"

This song is also similar to Hannah's song of praise in 1 Samuel 2: v. 1-10.

Someone has said that the "Magnificat" is the most Revolutionary document in the world.

So this song of Mary speaks to us of the "Revolutions" of God.

1. The Moral Revolution. – v. 51.

v.51b – He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Pride is a very powerful thing, it stops many people from becoming Christians.

Pride is not something that you can always see physically, because it is contained deep in the hearts of everybody. However, you can see the effects of pride in the actions of people's lives.

The Greek word used here for proud means to appear to be above other people morally and it is often associated with being against God in your heart.

So why does God scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

There are in the main 2 types of people in this world whom God regards as having a proud heart.

The first is those people who feel that they don't need God in their lives.

They are happy to live their lives, in their own way, without any thought of their creator having a claim in their lives or about the purpose of life and what happens when we die.

Saying that you don't need God's help in anything or acknowledging Him in any way is in fact a "Proud" statement.

Therefore, God is happy to scatter these people and to let them get on with their lives without Him.

God doesn't force Himself on these people.

The second group of people are those who are generally morally good. They don't do anything serious like murder someone but they feel that the good things that they do cancel out any bad things and they judge themselves over and above other people.

Sadly, they don't judge their lives against the Holiness of God, they judge their lives against the sinfulness of mankind.

Naturally they are going to be better than somebody else who has done some seriously wrong things.

However, God still says to these wonderfully "Good People", you still have pride in your heart.

These people will not admit to having a sinful nature or of offending God with their life style.

God says to these people from His word that you don't realise that ALL sin is against ME because I created you 100% Holy.

God can see our proud hearts when we can't always see them.

However, when we become face to face with our creator God, either in the form of Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Father, only then do we see clearly that our hearts are SO PROUD.

The great Prophet Isaiah came face to face with God and he realised that his heart did not measure up to God's Holiness.

Isaiah 6: v. 1-13 in N.L.T.

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were

calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.⁵ Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.”⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”⁹ And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people, ‘Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.’¹⁰ Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.”¹¹ Then I said, “Lord, how long will this go on?” And he replied, “Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country is a wasteland;¹² until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted.¹³ If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel’s stump will be a holy seed.”

The nation of Israel was so proud in their hearts that God scattered them. He scattered them until there was nothing left but a “Holy Stump”. It was only a few people left that God was able to use and rebuild the nation.

How SAD it is when God has to scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Can I ask you this morning, is your heart proud today?

Are you saying, I don’t need Jesus in my life?

Are you saying in your heart, I don’t want to acknowledge the God of the Bible as my creator.

If this is what you are saying, then God will let you go your own way.

If you want to acknowledge God in your life but set your own conditions, and do what you want in life, then God will let you, but one day when you die you will get a shock, your life will not be good enough to enter Heaven.

You have refused the offer of forgiveness for your sins through Jesus.

Yes, it is a revolutionary statement by Mary but her statement fits with the person and character of God.

1 John 2: v. 15-17.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

We can’t have the Love of God in our hearts and “PRIDE”

Timothy warns that it is not a good idea for a new Christian to take a leadership position. The reason he gives is because pride takes a while to be extinguished from our lives when we become Christians.

Pride is so powerful it must be extinguished by God’s Holy Spirit.

Disciple parents need to address the issue of pride in their student’s lives as it can be a powerful thing to overcome.

David in the Psalms warned himself about the possibility of falling back into a proud heart.

(Psalm 36: v. 11 in the N.K.J.)

¹¹ Let not the foot of pride come against me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

Mary certainly knew that God was against the proud heart.

She was only a teenager and yet she had more wisdom than many adults will ever have.

2. The Social Revolution – v. 52.

Mary moves from the moral revolution to the social revolution.

We have always lived in a world where rich people and Kings have power and authority. It seems that they are the ones in control of all situations.

Also we have always lived in a world where poor people have usually been abused or miss-used, or not cared for correctly. The reason for this is they did not have money to pay for what they needed.

This is a sad situation, BUT GOD, has a solution for that problem.

In answer to our prayers, GOD can put down the mighty from their thrones, and lift up the poor and lowly people.

Only God has the power to do this.

I can only speak for the history of the U.K.

In the United Kingdom God has used His people to fulfil this scripture.

In 871 A.D. Alfred was crowned King of Wessex. At that time Viking Ships from Scandinavia were sailing around the coast of the U.K. They murdered, robbed and burned down houses.

God raised up a man to put down the mighty.

He was the only English King ever to have the title "GREAT"

Alfred fortified the towns and eventually put a stop to the invading "VIKINGS"

Alfred the "GREAT" believed in honesty, loyalty, and the value of life.

He placed the 10 commandments at the beginning of His own Law book and showed how they should be understood by the love and passion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He once wrote;

I have tried to live a worthy life. I want to leave those who come after me an example of good works"

Christianity once shaped the nation of the U.K.

Christians did many things over 100 years for the U.K.

They started schools for the poor, they started hospitals, they educated people about the Bible and the Gospel Message, they discovered many things in medical science to help the sick, they introduced the hospice movement, the probation service and many other organisations that still exist today.

In fact, many things that have been good for this world have come out of God working through His children to fulfil that statement made by Mary.

Yes, God does indeed, put down the mighty and exalt the lowly.

God is still working today to do this.

Perhaps He is going to work through YOU and Me to achieve these things?

Finally, we have our third "Revolution" from v. 53.

3. The Economic Revolution – v. 53.

Luke 1: v. 53.

⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things, And *the* rich He has sent away empty.

A Non- Christian society is a society where each person is out to get as much as he can for himself.

A true Christian society is a society where each person is keen to share what he or she has with those in need or who have much less.

This is like an economic revolution to many people in this world.

It was the witness of a very poor family in America that led to the conversion of a person who is now quite famous in America and throughout the world.

The man's name is Lee Strobel. He has written many books in defence of the Christian faith. We even have some in our bookstall.

He was once a reporter for a famous newspaper in Chicago, U.S.A.

While as a reporter he visited a family in the city at Christmas time.

They were a very poor family.

In fact, they had nothing, but they were very happy.

Even the poor families in the area had lots of presents at the foot of the Christmas Tree waiting to be opened on Christmas Day. However, this family had nothing.

Lee Strobel discovered that these people were Christians and they shared their faith with him.

His heart was not touched about Christianity but Lee chose to write an article about this poor family who had nothing at Christmas, but they were happy.

When Lee made a return visit to the family, there were piles of presents everywhere in the house.

Lee discovered that his article in the newspaper about this family had touched the hearts of the people in Chicago and they were moved to send Christmas presents to this family.

Lee was delighted about the effect of his Newspaper article.

However, Lee noticed one of the family opening gifts and re-wrapping them in brown paper to post to different people.

When Lee asked what He was doing, the man said, we are going to give 90% of everything away to other people.

The man said "How can we keep all these goods when there are other people in need?"

That was the thing that touched Lee Strobel's heart and he eventually became a Christians.

It was the economic "Revolution" living out in the lives of real Christians that impacted his heart.

The Christian life lived in the correct way may seem revolutionary, but it can impact the lives of non-believers in a powerful way.

Equally this verse applies to the spiritually hungry and the people who regard themselves as rich and not needing any spiritually food from God.

When we acknowledge our need for God to feed our souls spiritually through His word, He does this in a wonderful way.

However, people who say that they have no need of God's word and spiritually food, never receive anything from God.

They are sent away empty.

Mary closes her song by acknowledging that God has helped the nation of Israel through all their history, since their birth through Abraham.

God chose Abraham and his family to be a witness to the world.

Sadly ,the Jewish nation haven't always been the witness that God required of them.

Nevertheless, God has always provided for them and fulfilled His promise to bless them when they are obedient.

In Genesis Chapter 12 : v. 1-3, when God first spoke to Abraham He promised to make a great nation from his family and to bless them.

God promised to bless those people who supported Israel and to curse those who opposed Israel.

Genesis 12: v. 1-3 in the N.K.J.

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This promise still stands today.

God Himself has always honoured His chosen nation and blessed those people who have supported them.

It is no wonder that Israeli technology and expertise in all areas is the most sought after in the world.

Even the mighty nation of America go to Israel for help and support in cutting edge technology.

The list is far too long to mention all the recent inventions from Israel but I just want to mention one.

That is the "Pillcam"

Israel has invented the first pill that can be swallowed to record images of the digestive tract. The pill which is a normal size contains a tiny camera that records images.

It is an amazing invention and can save lives at least for a time.

I am personally grateful that they invented the Satellite navigation system. I couldn't find my way around Osaka by car without it.

Yes God has wonderfully blessed His people Israel, in spite of world opposition against them.

Application

So what can we take home from today's teaching and apply to our lives if we are a Christian?

1. The Christian life lived in the correct way according to call of the risen Lord Jesus is a very "Revolutionary" life.
It is different in every way from the normal life style that most non- Christians would live.

If we want to be effective servants for Jesus, we too need to live radical life styles that honour God. Our walk must measure up to our talk if we want people to see Jesus through us. It is very challenging to follow the teachings of Jesus in radical discipleship, but that is what we are called to do.

Next year on the 1st of January, we start our disciple parenting programme. Please make sure that you get the most of what Jesus wants to teach you during 2017, by opening up your heart and your mind to all that God has for you.

Ephesians 2: v. 10 tells us that " ...We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do good things he planned for us long ago." (N.L.T.)

2. If we are not a professing Christian today, we might like to consider what the whole Bible says about God and Jesus Christ.

You need to consider the message of Salvation while you are alive.

Jesus came into this world to be our Saviour.

He lived a revolutionary life-style, proved that He was God in human form through many miracles and then died a cruel death to pay for the punishment of your sins and mine.

I would humbly ask you to consider the "Real Purpose of Christmas"

It is very radical and revolutionary compared to the Christmas that is celebrated by many people today.

Removing JESUS from Christmas is removing the real reason for the celebration.

There are lots of free booklets and tracts that you can take away today to help you consider Jesus this Christmas.

Amen.