

Readings

Scripture

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.
- Luke 1:39-56 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

The higher and better things to come, which it was the calling of the prophets to announce beforehand, were to be but the fuller development of those which existed in the past, or a grander exemplification of the truths and principles they embodied. The two stood related to each other, partly as the beginning to the end, partly also, as the shell to the kernel; and in a doctrinal respect alone it was of great importance to have this relative connection and dependence maintained – so to exhibit and foretell the better future, as not to lose sight of its organic union and fundamental correspondence with the past.

- Patrick Fairbairn, *The Interpretation of Prophecy* (p. 154-155)

Sermon Outline

Blessed Beyond Measure
Luke 1:39-56

Remembering His Promise of Mercy
Brad Anderson

Memories stir our affections...

What memories does Luke record for our hearts in Luke 1?

A memorable visit... (Luke 1:39-45)

A memorable song... (Luke 1:46-56)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is your favorite Christmas memory to this point in your life? What do you remember about it? Was it the smell of food or an evergreen wreath? Was it family sitting around the table or playing games in the living room? Was it the travel in anticipation of seeing friends?
- Read the reflection quote from Patrick Fairbairn. How do Mary's words reflect revelation from the Old Testament? What passages or cross references stand out to you?
- What type of conversations do you think Mary and Elizabeth had over the course of their three months together?
- Who was the child in Elizabeth's womb? What role would he play for the child in Mary's womb? Does it seem strange (memorable) to read that the child in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy when Mary's voice was heard?