

**Sermon: Rejoicing in God's Great Reversal.**

**Series:** *Luke: Good News for Everyone*

**Scripture:** Luke 1:39-56.

**Date:** December 10, 2023

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Are you struggling to experience joy lately? In what ways is your joy dependent upon your situation/circumstances?
- b) Joy is both a gift from the Holy Spirit for the Christian but also a choice. Mary chose to be with others, to focus on God's character, and to connect her story to God's bigger story. Which of these three stand out to you as something you can do to gain joy in your life?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) In order to pursue joy, Mary focused on the character of God. God is mighty (v49), merciful (v.50), and holy (v.49). In what ways does our salvation rely on God being all three?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) Mary's song describes God's great reversal where the proud are brought low and the lowly are exalted. How does the cross make both of these possible in our lives? Or, how does the cross humble the proud and exalt the humble?

**APPLICATION**

- a) Pastor Brady challenged us to both give help and receive help. Who can you help or bless someone this Christmas season like Elizabeth did Mary? Specifically, WHO can you bless?

**PRAYER**

- Acknowledge God's might, mercy, and holiness and their role in our salvation.
- Confess areas of your life where you struggle to find joy.
- Thank Jesus for his great reversal and how his cross removes all pride.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with joy in the presence of God.