



- Luke 1:46-55
- Gabriel has announced to Mary that she will have a son who is Jesus: Deity, Holy, Great, King, Messiah.
- She goes to visit Elizabeth,

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.



• Luke 1:46-50 (ESV)

- “My soul magnifies the Lord,
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He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.



• Luke 1:51-55 (ESV)

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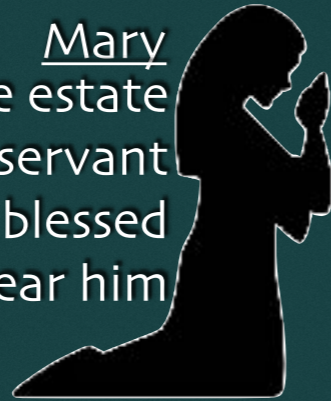


- Let's consider how Mary sees herself
 - Humble
 - A Servant
 - She fears God (revere)
 - That God has blessed her

When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with the humble is wisdom.

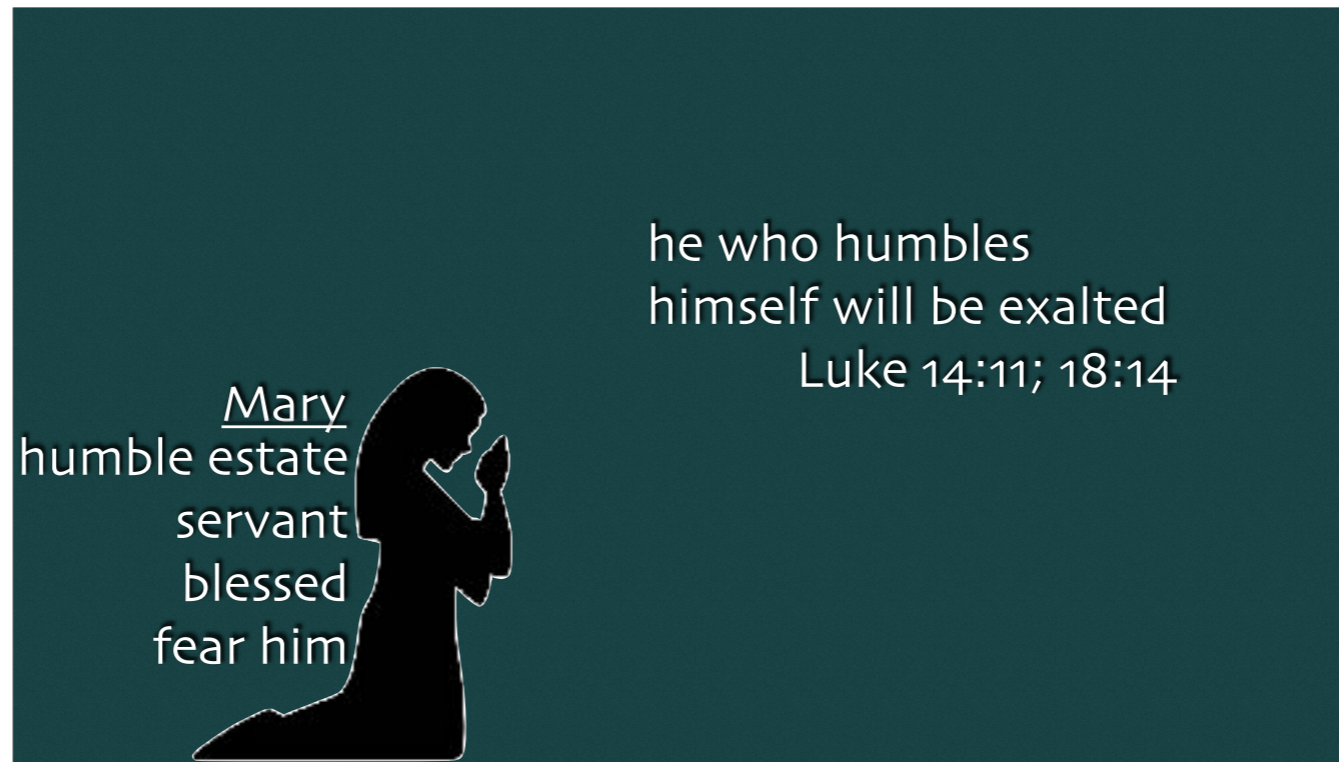
Proverbs 11:2

Mary
humble estate
servant
blessed
fear him



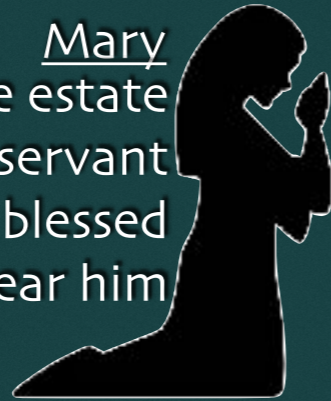
- Humble Estate

- In what sense is Mary humble?
 - Physically? Not of noble family (generations removed from David); small, insignificant town
 - Spiritually?
- Proverbs 11:2 (ESV) 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.



- For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - Matthew 18:4 — Like a child
 - Luke 14:7-11 — Seating at wedding, sit in lowest place, not the place of honor.
 - Luke 18:9-14 — Prayer of Tax Collector
 - “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

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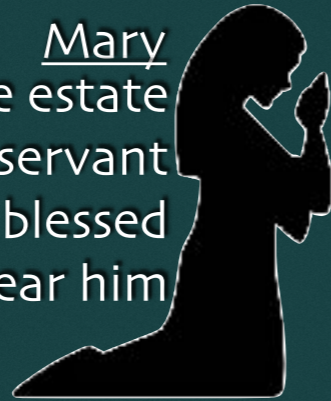


Humble yourselves, therefore,
under the mighty hand of God
so that at the proper time he
may exalt you, casting all your
anxieties on him, because he
cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

- 1 Peter 5:5-7 (ESV) 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
 - Humility before God is a choice.
 - We chose to humble ourselves because God cares for us.
 - And we can share our struggles with him.
 - Does this not also apply to Mary’s situation, with all the promises made to her and all the implications?
- Psalms 149:4 (ESV) 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

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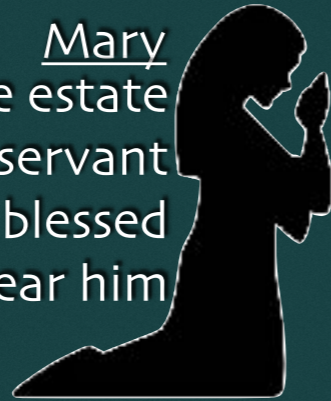


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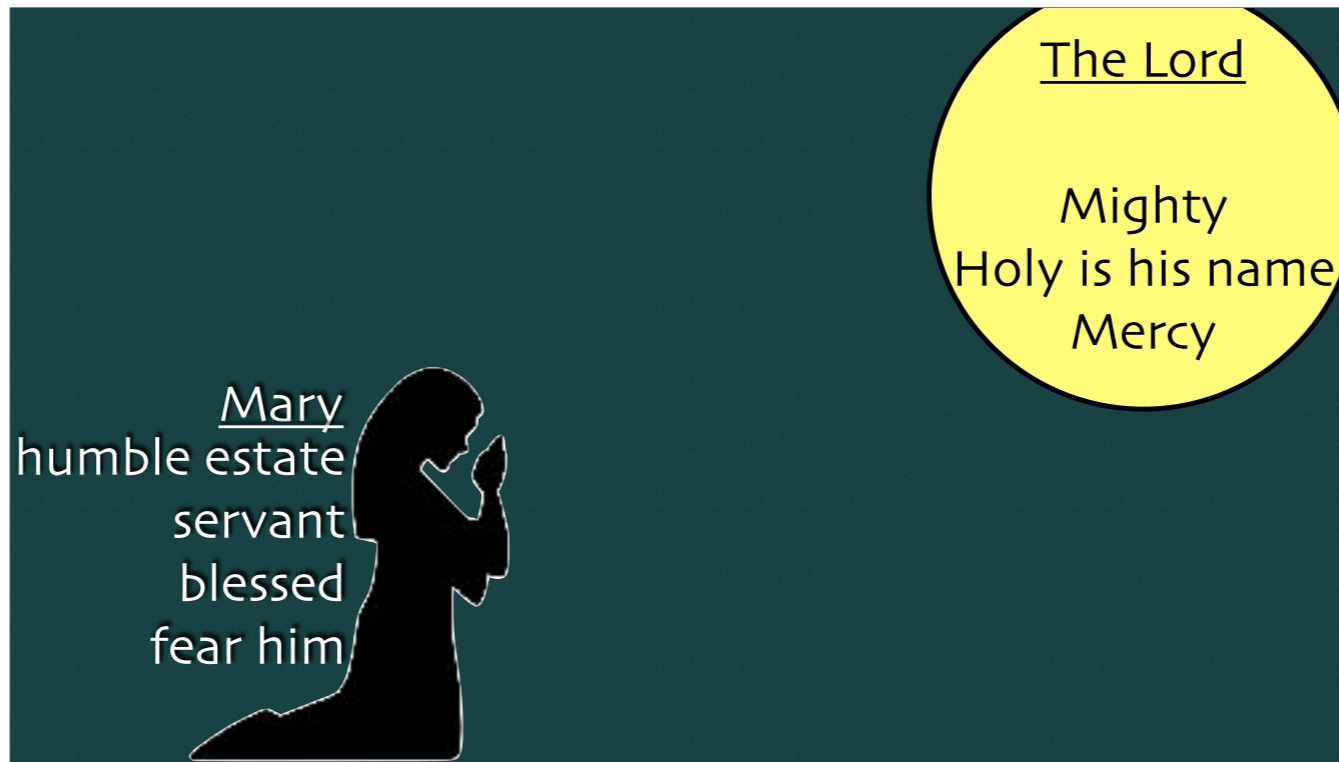
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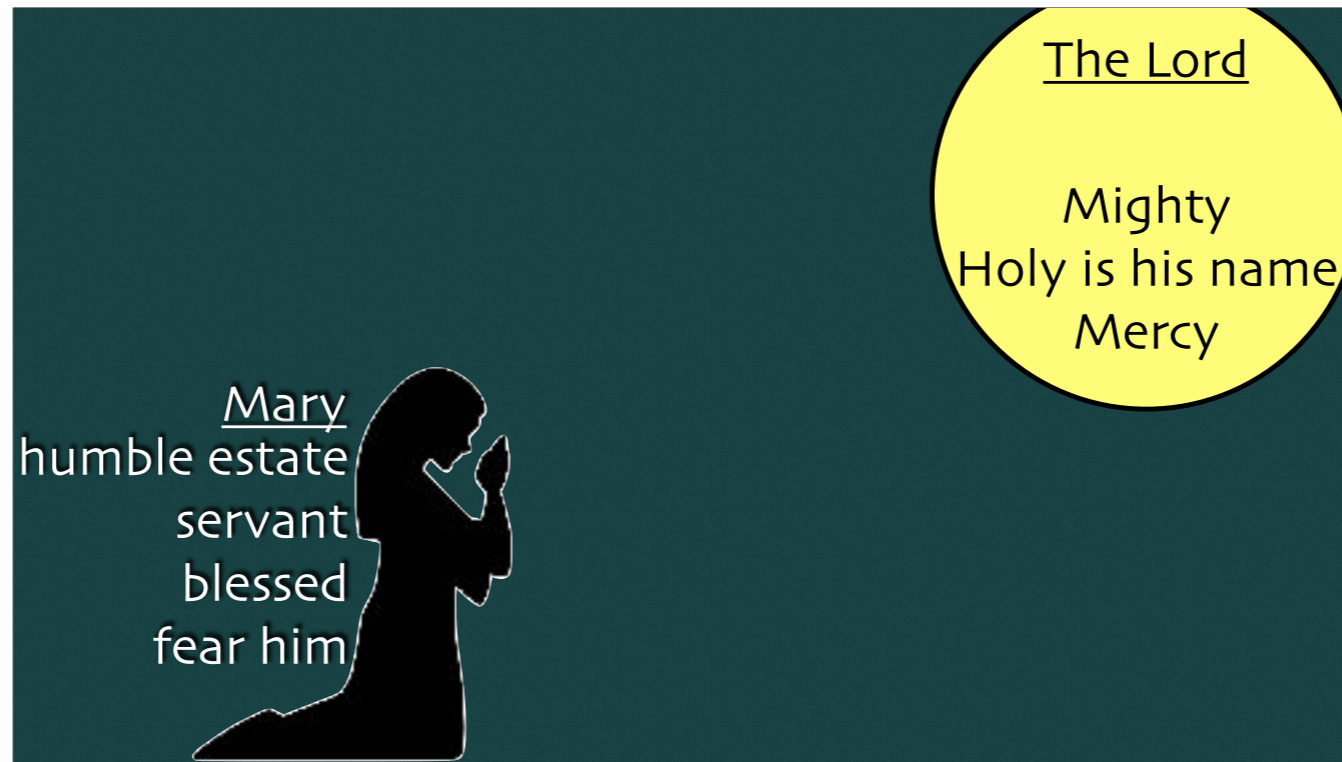
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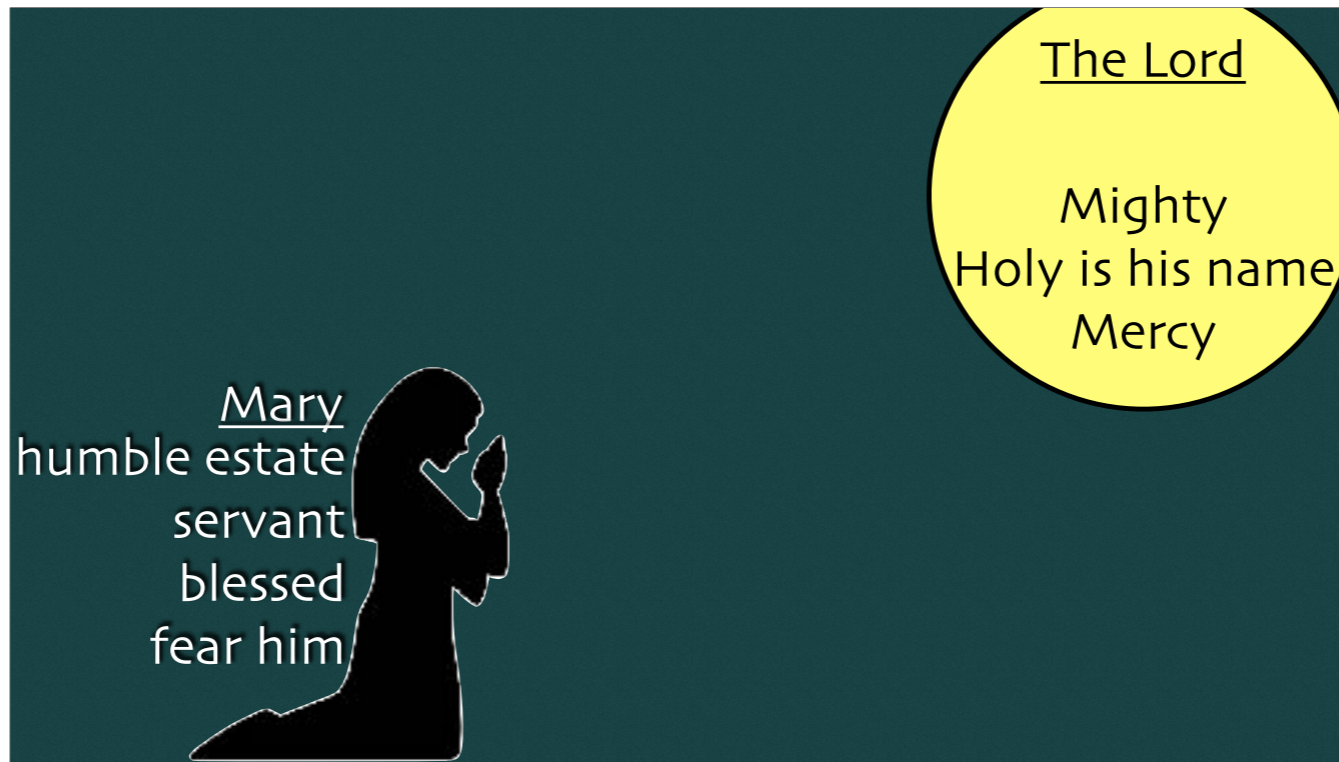
- Blessed
 - Psalms 149:4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.
 - Favored by God ... approved and to be congratulated.
 - Mary's role is very special
 - Elizabeth: Luke 1:42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"
- But note especially the duration of this praise: salvation was not just for them, but for all in the future



- Mary also has a very clear conception of her God
 - Mighty
 - Holy
 - Merciful

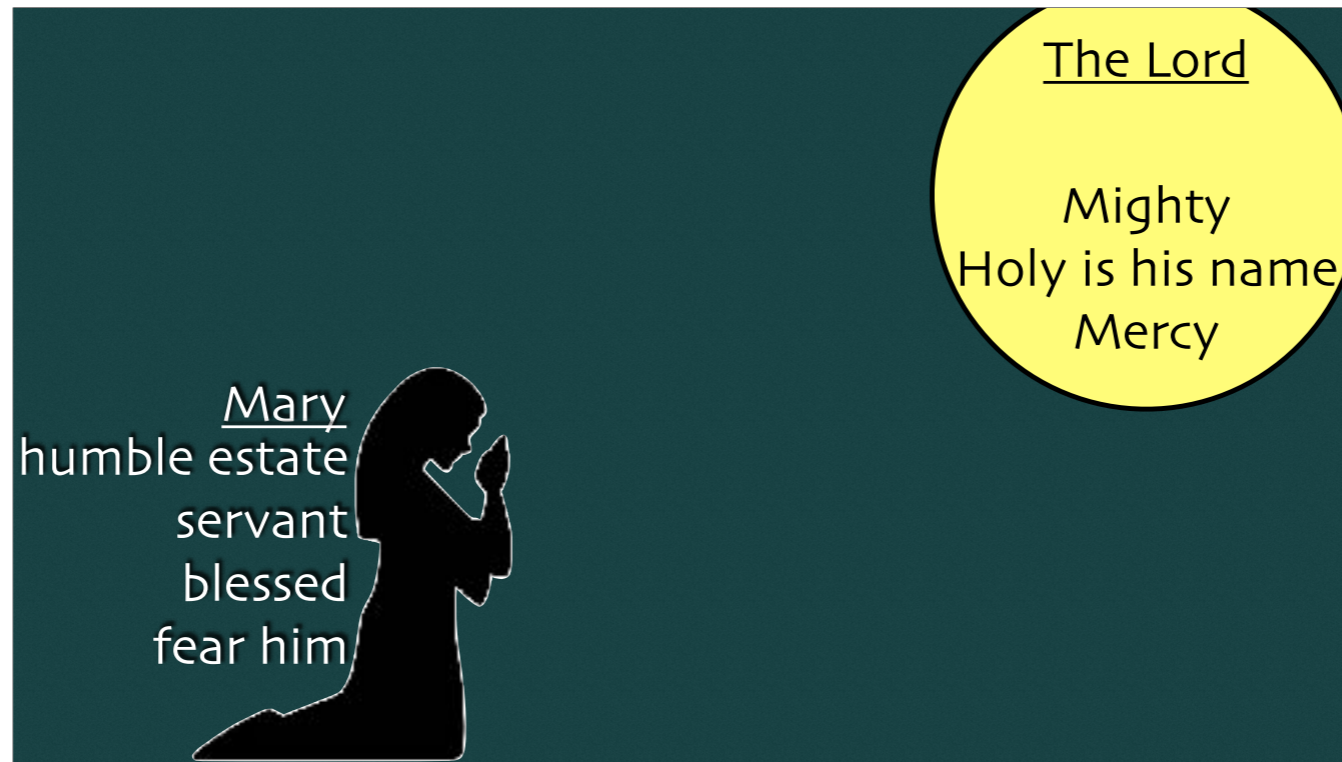


- Mighty
 - Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before me, and be blameless,
 - Sarah laughs:
 - Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”
 - Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God. (Both Elizabeth (old, barren) and Mary (virgin))

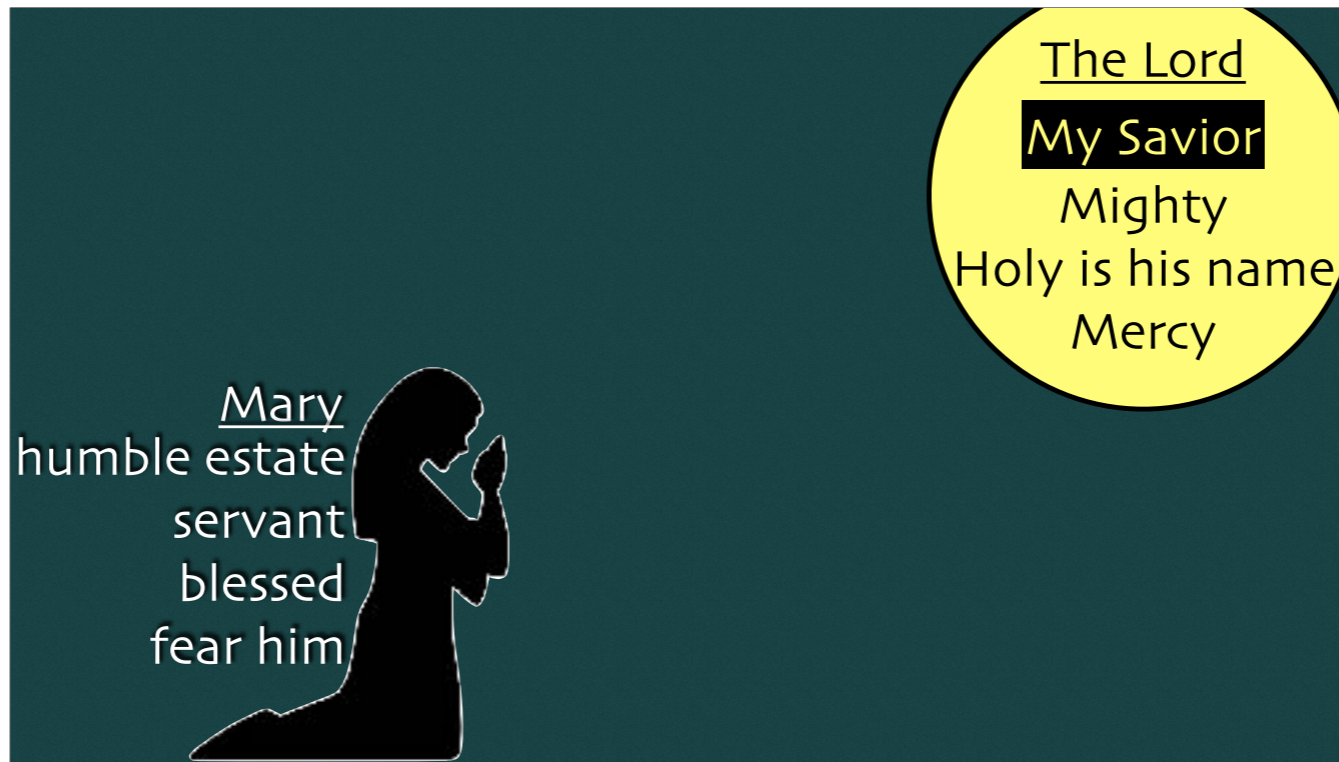


- Holy is his name

- A reference to his essential character: He is deity, glorious, eternal (not a man)
- Isaiah 57:15 — For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.



- Mercy: compassion/pity and acting to remedy the problem
 - Romans 11:30-32 (ESV) 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.
 - We are all sinners and need his mercy.

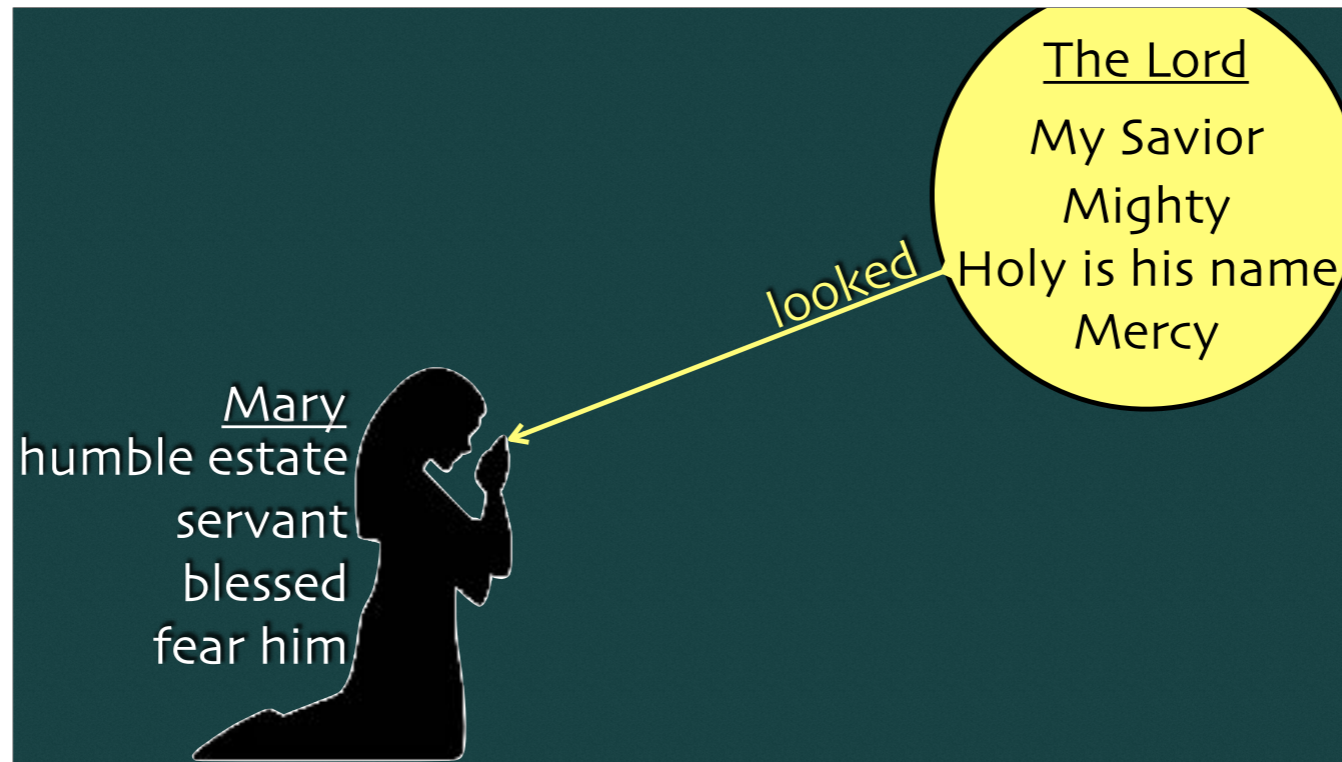


- My Savior

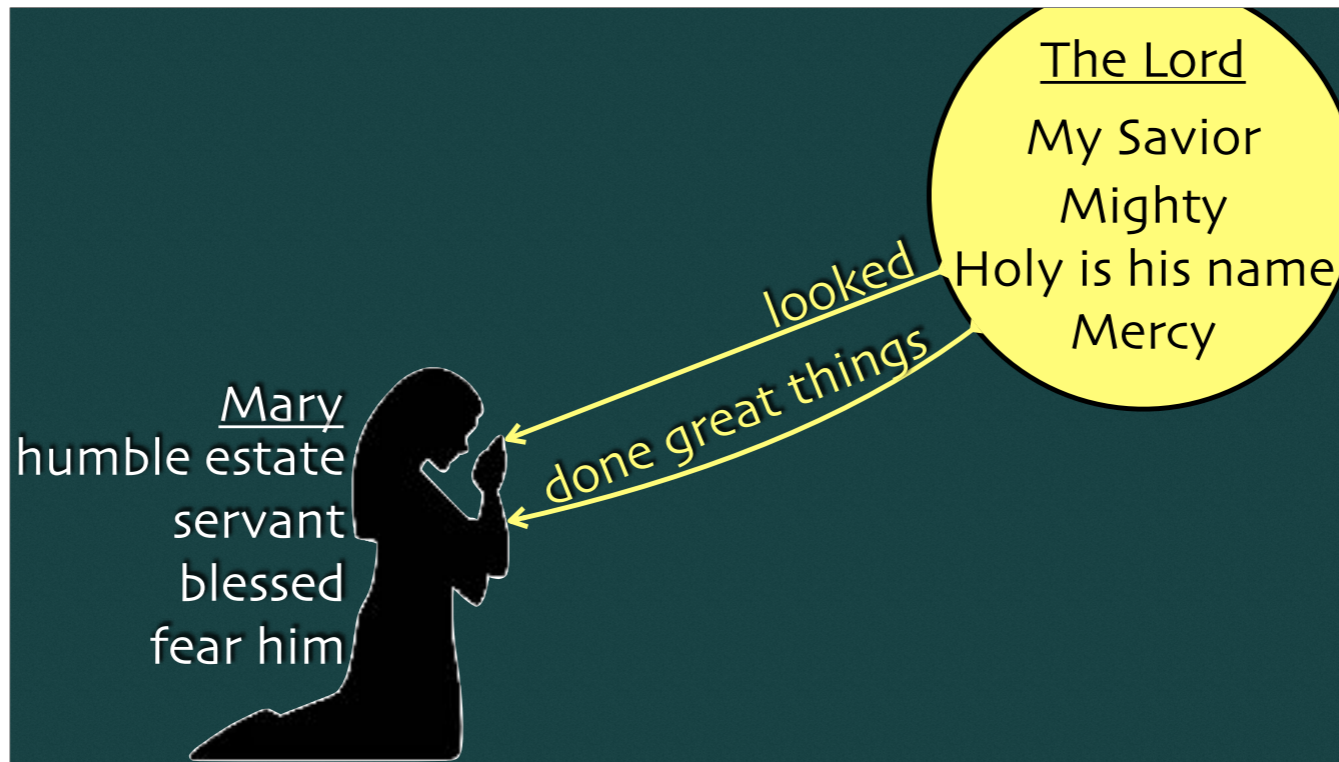
- Luke 2:11 — message to the Shepherds: a savior, who is Christ the Lord
- 1 John 4:14 (ESV) 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
- Jesus can be your savior too.



- Mary perceives her Lord as one who is active for those who are humble and in need of help.



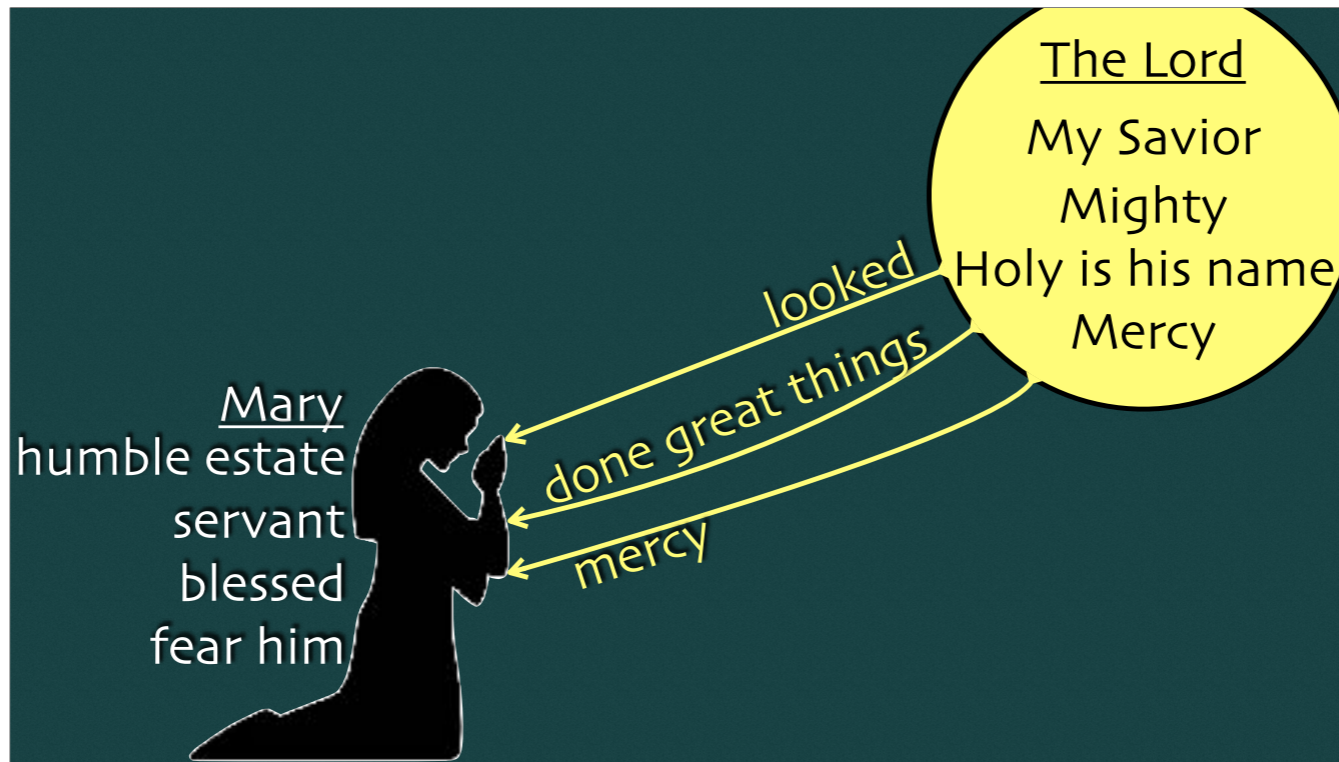
- Looked
 - Hagar, cast out of the home of Abraham and Sarah, pregnant, by a spring of water
 - “You are a God who sees me.”
 - David
 - Psalms 35:22-23 You have seen, O LORD; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me! 23 Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord!



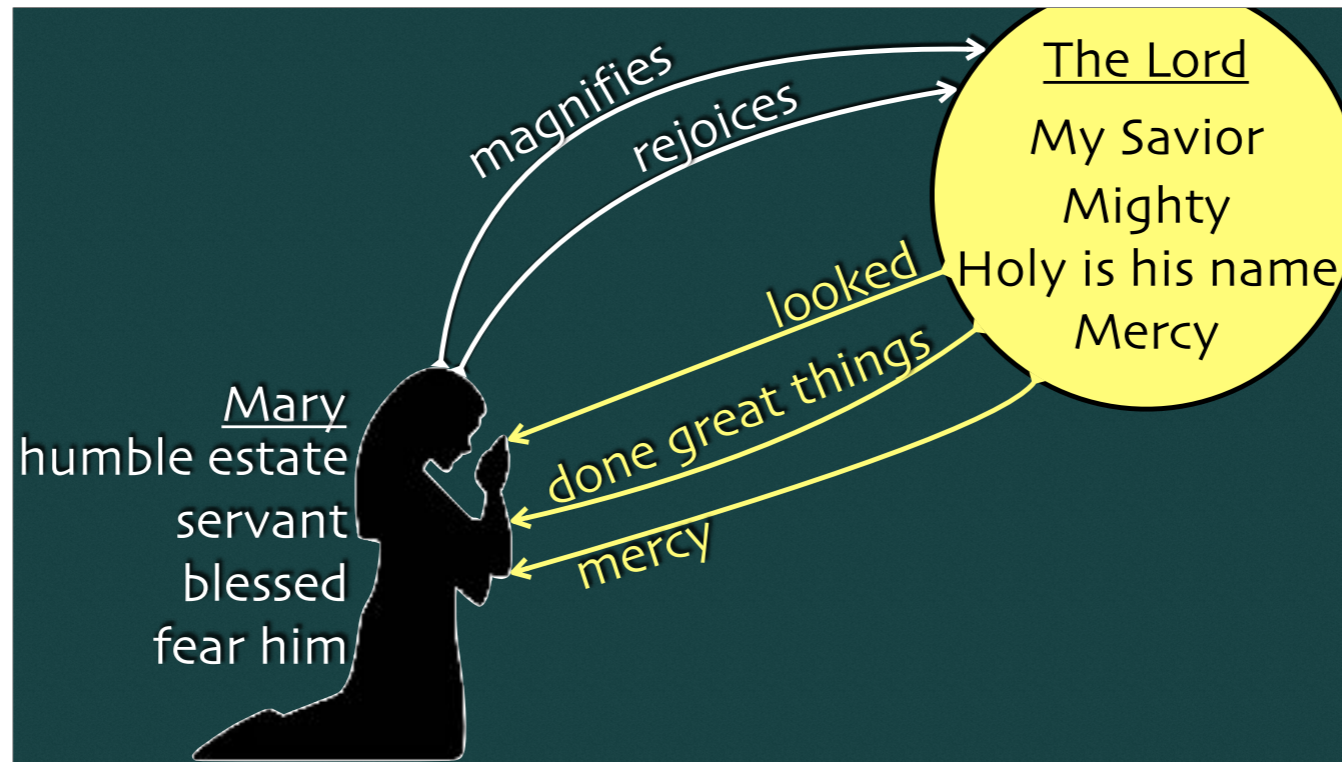
- Done Great Things

- Note how personal this is for Mary “for me”
- Being the Almighty, God acts
- Angel, Favor, Conception, Mother of the savior

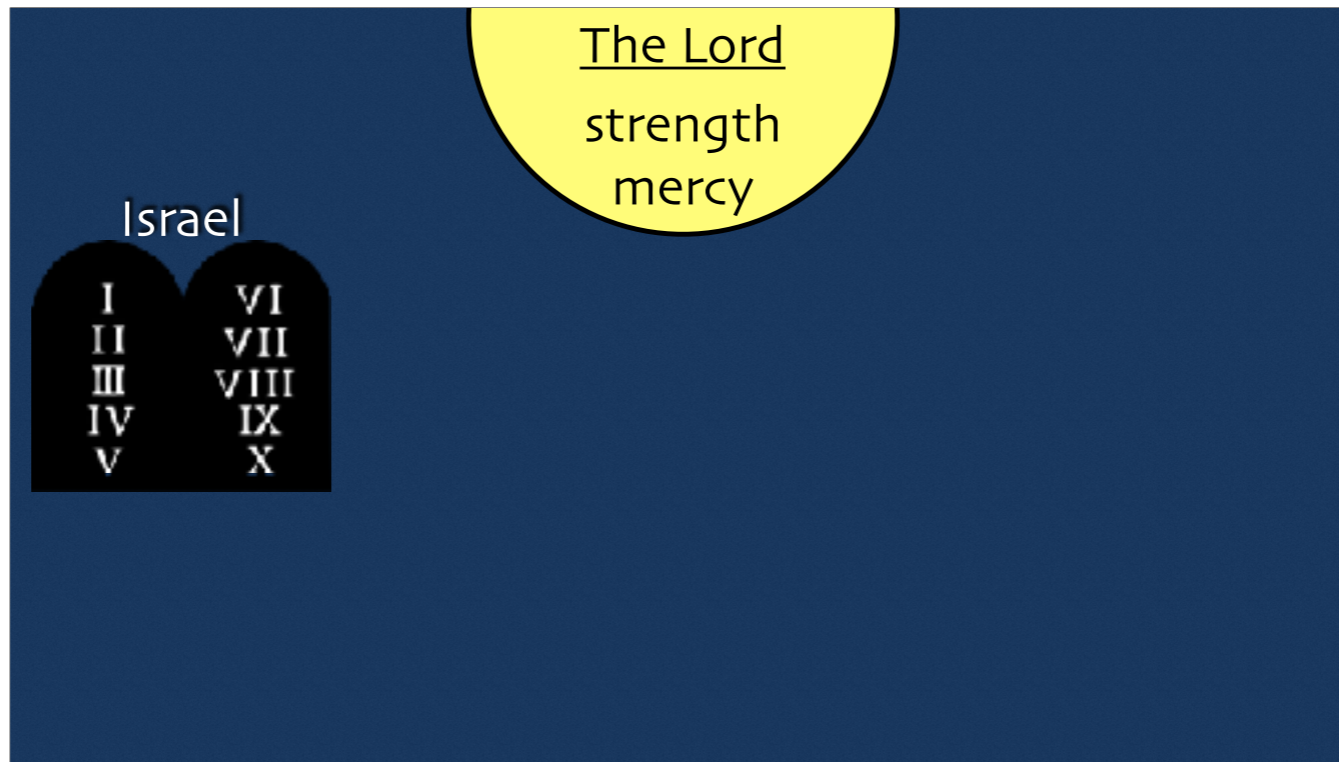
- Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



- Mercy
 - She didn't earn this or deserve this.
 - God favored her and helped her.
 - More on this later ... But it's really an important key to Mary's Praise



- How does Mary respond to all of this?
 - She magnifies: make great, celebrate, glorify
 - She rejoices:
- Whether this is a song or a prayer or an exclamation
 - Mary sees that all that God has done is worthy of great joy and celebration.



- The scope of Mary's celebration goes beyond just herself.
 - Because of all that has been said to her by the angel and Elizabeth
 - she know that things are changing,
 - especially important for Israel, God's chosen people.
 - But also for the world
- She turns her praise to what it means for Israel
 - And in many ways it is very similar to what she has already rejoiced in.


The Lord
strength
mercy

Israel

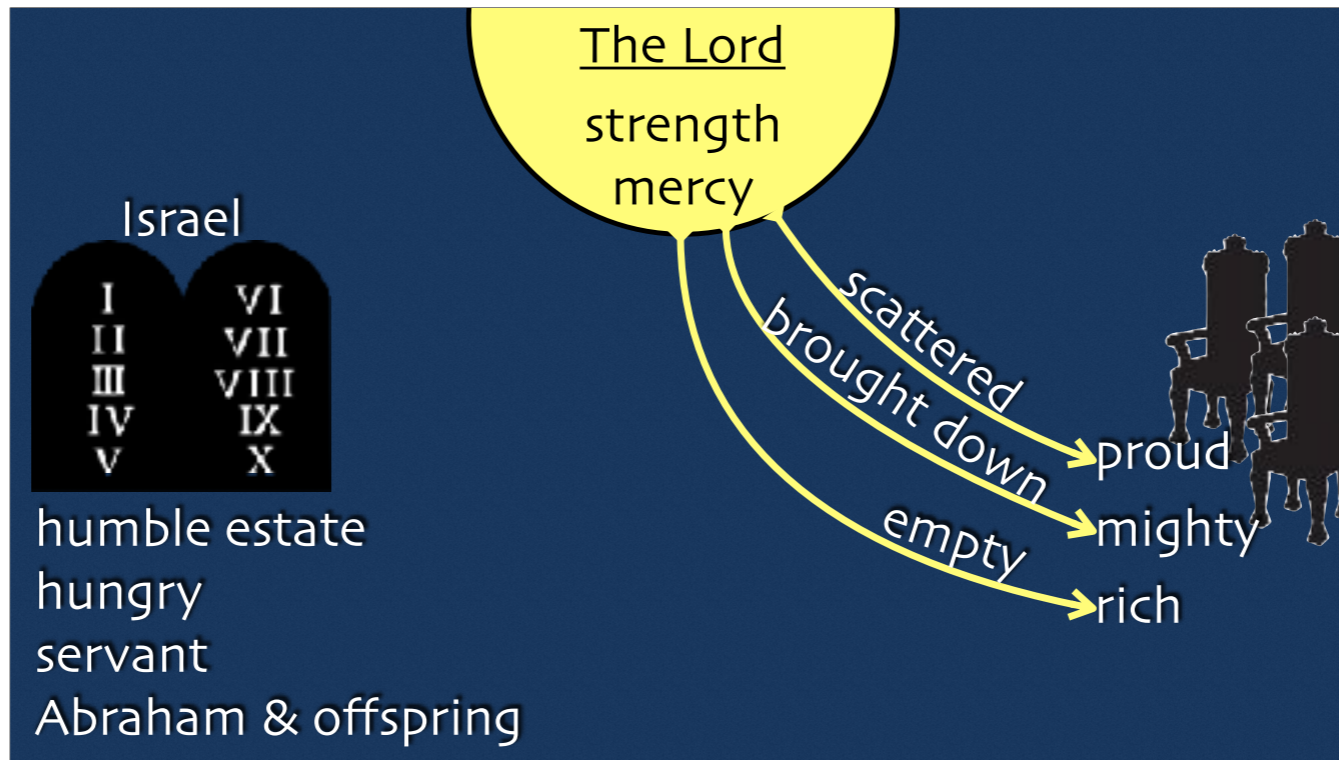
I	VI
II	VII
III	VIII
IV	IX
V	X

humble estate
hungry
servant
Abraham & offspring

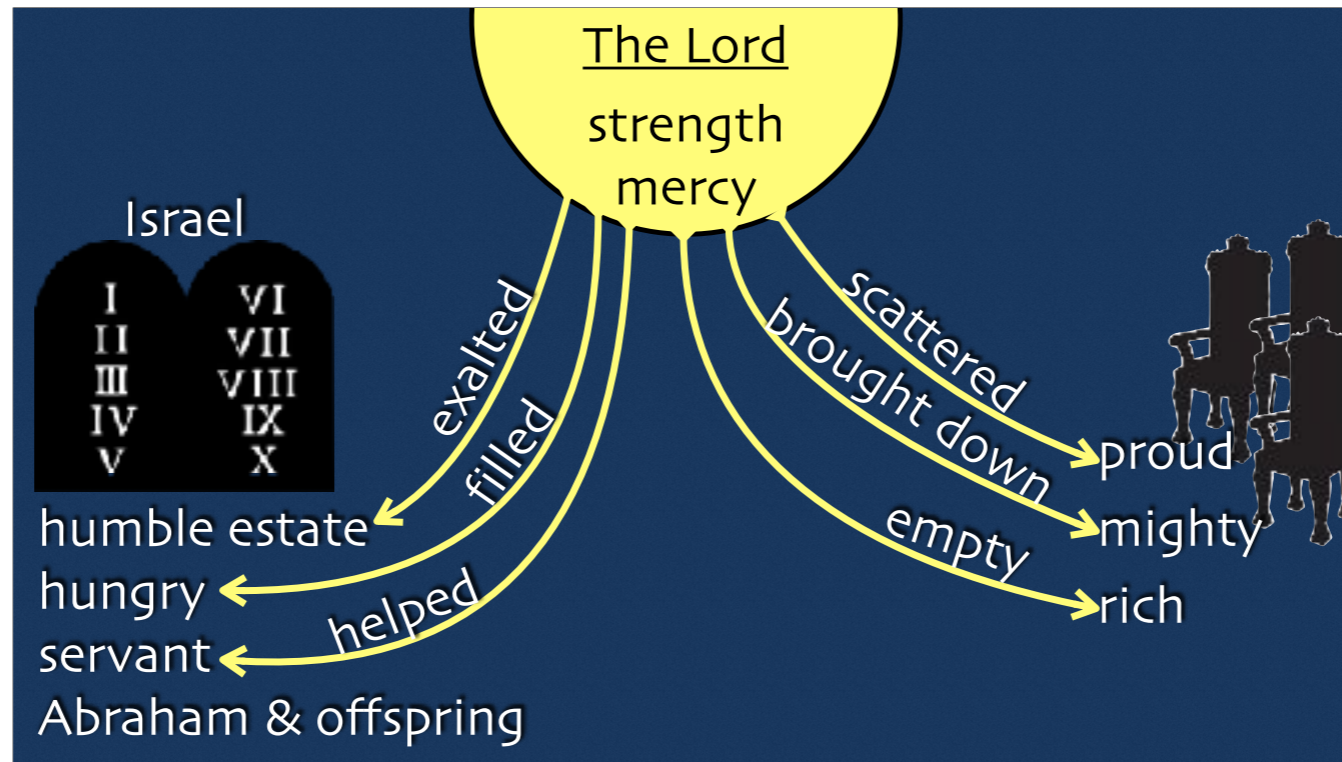
proud
mighty
rich



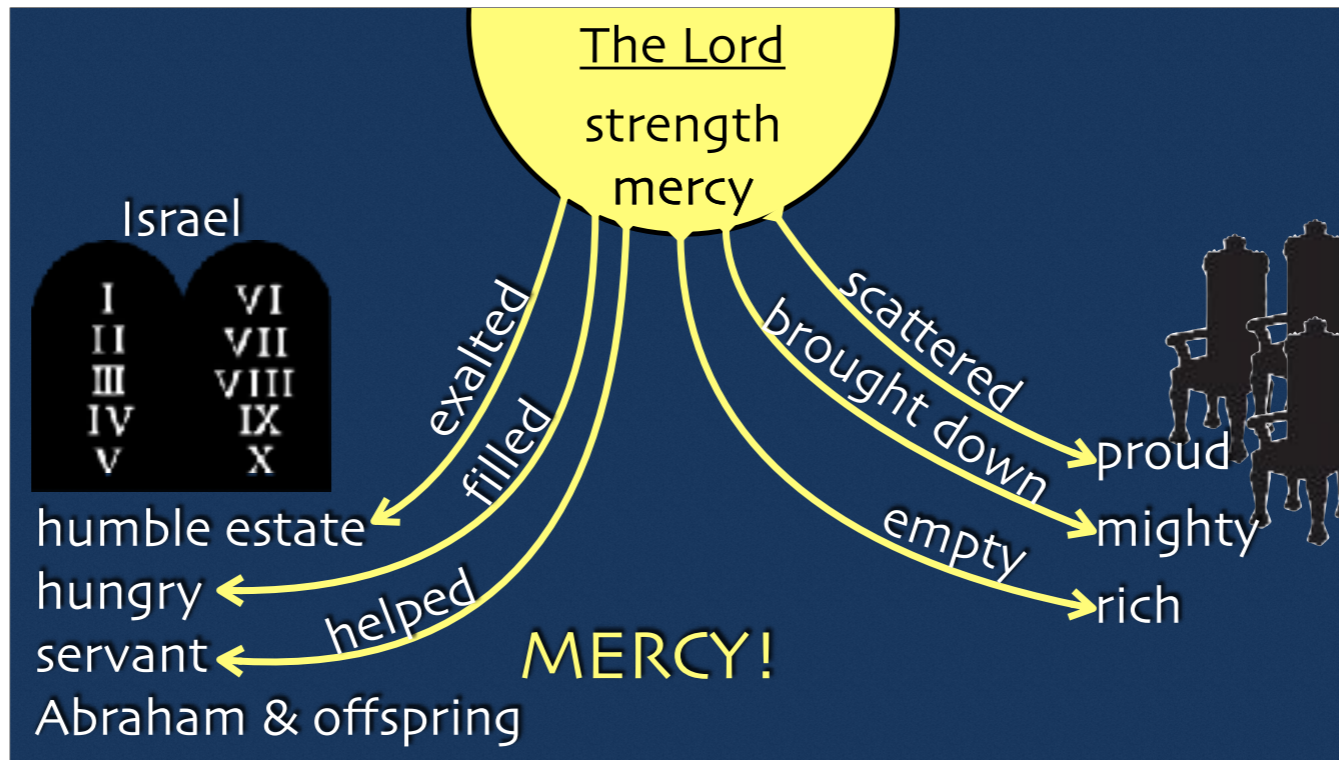
- Mary describes Israel's condition:
 - humble estate
 - hungry (spiritual, most likely)
 - servant of the Lord
- But the rest are
 - proud and mighty and rich
 - These are the one's who are sufficient to themselves
 - They despise those who are less in their eyes.
 - Perhaps some in the world, and some in Israel



- But in this moment, Mary sees that the Lord is not choosing the great, but the humble.
- This wonderful moment looks beyond what the world exalts.
- So God uses his strength to oppose them.
 - the proud are scattered
 - the might brought down
 - the rich are empty
- James 4:6-7 (ESV) 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God.



- But for God's chosen people Israel, Mary sees that things are much different.
 - God exalts those who are humble
 - He fills those who are hungry
 - He helps those who are servants
- Those who are often overlooked by the world; looked down on and despised
 - These are the ones that the Lord chooses to help.
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (ESV) 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."



- The overall picture, is one of God's Mercy.
- To Abraham and Offspring
 - Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- Our God keeps his promises
 - Not because we deserve it or have earned it
 - But because he is faithful and merciful

MERCY!

But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:4-6



- Ephesians 2:4-6 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

MERCY!

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own **mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:5-6



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MERCY!

Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13



- Matthew 9:13 Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."
- Matthew 12:7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

MERCY!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill
and cumin, and have neglected the
weightier matters of the law: justice
and **mercy** and faithfulness.

Matthew 23:23



- Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.

MERCY!

He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Luke 10:37



- The Good Samaritan
 - Which one proved to be a neighbor.
- Luke 10:37 (ESV) 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

MERCY!

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the **mercy** of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have **mercy** on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show **mercy** with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Jude 1:20-23



- Jude 1:20-23 (ESV) 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

MERCY!

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13



- James 2:13 (ESV) 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

How do I perceive myself?

Do I consider all my savior does for me?

When was the last time that I
magnified and rejoiced in my God?

Show mercy.

Is Jesus my savior?



- What do we learn from Mary's Praise?
- How do I perceive myself in relationship to the Lord?
- Do I consider carefully all that my Savior has done for me?
- When did you last magnify and rejoice in your God?
- Show mercy.
- Is Jesus your Savior?

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

church of Christ



*we
preach
Christ crucified*

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

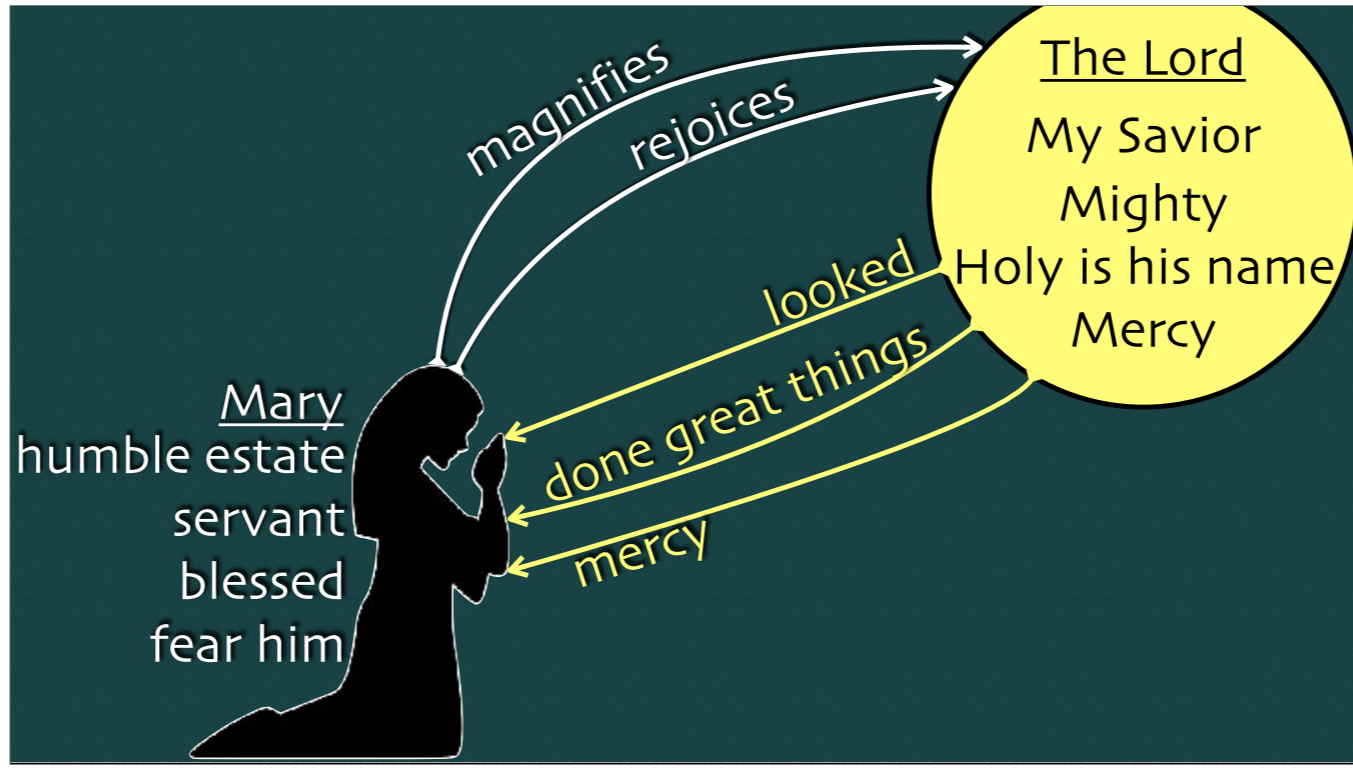
Luke 2 v/39-56

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THE WORD IN PICTURES

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The Mercy of the Lord: Mary's Praise

Luke 1:46-55

Synopsis: Mary's praise divides into two parts. The first an expression of her relationship with God and what he has done for her, which is ultimately described as mercy. The second looks to what God has done for Israel and all the world in his mercy to send the savior for our salvation.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."