

Introduction

1. Who this question asked about: **What makes these people glad?** Answer surprise.
 - a. Asked about the early Christian martyrs who died in Roman persecution.¹
 - b. What is secret to that kind of gladness? Rather than me, let Mary tell us (**Show**)²
2. When Mary was told be mother of Messiah, earthly circumstances unchanged.
 - a. Did you know that? Still same problems, troubles, hardships, woes as had before.
 - b. Yet Mary wrote 1 most joyful praise songs evr writtn. Read vv. 46-47(NLT).³
 - c. How so happy when her life was still so hard? Discovered secret Xian joy/hope.
 - i. Those are the 2 things that bring happiness—Xian joy and Xian hope.
 - ii. Because they are based upon Jesus they are unchanging. Steadfast. Constant.
 - iii. You can be thrown to the lions and still have joy/hope. The martyrs did.
 - iv. You can be poor, despised & oppressed and still rejoice. Mary did.
3. (**Show title, then text**). **“Why was Mary so happy?”** Today, *The Secret of Christian Joy*.

◆ Vv. 48-50

- A. 1st half Mary’s song is her praise for what birth of Christ meant to her personally.
 1. It is dominated by *me* and *my*. Jesus brought her personal joy. Reason was →
 - a. J. had changed her life. He had reversed her life fortunes in dramatic way.
 - b. But even though what happened her vry unique, her words apply all G’s childrn.
 2. **Mary’s exper. is unique, but at same time Mary is 1st to exper. in some manner that . . . which is for all Israel . . .**⁴ [and for all believers].
- B. No matter what circumstances or hardships these reversals bring personal joy.

◆ Three Reversals That Brought Mary Joy

- A. **A nobody became a somebody** (v. 48).
 1. Mary was amazed that insig. person like her chosen bring Messiah into world.
 2. Terms uses reveal how humble attitude was, but also how humble circs. were.
 - a. **Humble estate = afflicted state = unfavorable state**
 - b. Pretty much of a nobody who was looked down upon & had hard life.
 - i. Teenager this time = 13/14 yrs. old. Poor. **servant = female slave**
 - ii. Came fr. district/town that was despised--Nazareth of Galilee
 - iii. Military headquarters set up not far fr. Nazareth by the Roman army.⁵

¹[M]any were perplexed by the fact that Christians could die with a smile on their faces and a song on their lips. “What makes these people glad?” they wondered. A Roman soldier, filled with hate, could grit his teeth, go into battle, and die. He would rush at the enemy with anger in his heart, hate written on his face, and cursing on his lips. That was the way a soldier was expected to die. But to see a young girl thrown to the lions in the arena; to see a smile on her face as she prayed for her murderers—this was something new. *Radiant Living*, “The Satisfaction--Presented,” Olford, S. F. (2002). Vol. 2: Institutes of Biblical preaching. Memphis: Olford Ministries International.

² [Fyodor Andreyevich Bronnikov](http://s3.crackedcdn.com/phpimages/article/5/7/5/188575_v1.jpg), “Martyr in the Circus Arena, 1869.” Accessed 12/10/16.
http://s3.crackedcdn.com/phpimages/article/5/7/5/188575_v1.jpg.

³ **46 Mary responded, “Oh, how I praise the Lord. 47 How I rejoice in God my Savior!**

⁴Evans, Craig. (1998). Vol. 35A: Word Biblical Commentary: Luke 1:1-9:20 (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word, Incorporated.

⁵**Nazareth had become a military camp town with which all manner of sin and corruption were associated. The Nazarenes were particularly despised by the rest of the Jews.** J.D. Pentecost. *Words/Works of JC*, 44.

- iv. Jesus found that out when Nathan., Can any good thing come fr. Naz?
- c. When Mary said humble estate, she was not kidding.
- 3. Two things God did for Mary totally impressed and amazed her.
 - a. He has looked on her = look upon w/care
 - i. G's loving care, that looks upon some1 & implies G going change sit.
 - ii. Mary going receive G's spec. attention and be mother of grt. person evr.
 - b. She would be considered blessed by future gen. for bearing Messiah.

B. A mortal experienced a miracle (v. 49).

- 1. When Mary describes God as the Mighty One uses play on words back v. 37.
 - a. When angel told she would be pregnant, How will this be, since I'm virgin?
 - b. Angel responded in v. 37, For nothing is impossible with God.
 - i. impossible = adunateo = to be powerless. mighty = dunatos = to be powerful.
 - c. The 2 words are the opposite of 1 another. Mortals/powerless; Mighty/powerful.
- 2. Mary affirming she'd be recipient of mighty act of God, miracle of virgin birth.
- 3. She is saying that what was impossible w/mortals was possible w/the Mighty One.
- 4. Holy is His Name. Because holy fulfills proms. Because Almighty does impossible.

C. A sinner received a Savior (v. 50).

- 1. mercy = G's faithful love to the unfortunate, to those put their trust in Him.
 - a. Mary was reminded that God chose nation Is. based on His mercy.
 - b. But they had been sinful/disobedient. Now downtrodden/oppressed.
 - c. But God was faithful. As unworthy as they were, sent Savior for those fear Him.
- 2. That's what meant when called Lord God my Savior (v. 47). His mercy brought salv.
- 3. By the way, notice what Mary thought about herself?
 - a. She said God was her Savior. Who needs a Savior? Sinner does.
 - b. If M. sinner then was sinless? No. If not sinless then immaculately conceived?
 - c. Truth of the matter is Mary was very ordinary, in every way.
 - d. But thru Jesus God reversed her fortunes, and does same for us.

◆ **Mary's Reversals Applied To You (How Great Our Joy).**

A. These reversals are true for every child of God.

- 1. A nobody becomes a somebody.
 - a. chosen poor, foolish, weak, lowly to be rich/strong/wise/distinguish. in X.⁶
 - b. Bible. U are already full? already rich? reigned as kings. heirs kingdom.
 - c. CJ has become for us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification & redemption.
- 2. A mortal experiences a miracle. (Show)
 - a. Mary received miracle of the virgin birth. We receive miracle of new birth.
 - b. That's miracle of reproduction. That's miracle of regeneration.
 - c. Mary received Jesus into her womb. We receive Jesus into our life.
- 3. A Sinner receives a Savior.
 - a. This mercy is for those who fear Him, fr. generation to generation.

⁶These quotes come fr. James 2:5; 1 Cor. 1:26-28, 30; 4:8-10.

- b. That includes you/me.
 - i. If you know JC, regardless of circumstances you have all that Mary had.
 - ii. There's joy in that. Enough joy to say, *My soul magnifies the Lord*
- B. *Coming to Jesus changes us inwardly not always our circumstances outwardly.*
 - 1. Think about it. Mary was still poor, insignificant, and despised by the world.
 - a. So poor couldn't afford lamb, but had to offer two doves at J.' dedication.
 - b. In fact, during Jesus lifetime husband died leaving her widow at vry. early age.
 - c. Simeon said *a sword would pierce [Mary's] own soul.* She'd be heartbroken.
 - d. So dependent when He was dying Jesus put her in care of His disciple John.
 - 2. So much for those say if come to J. He'll make wealthy/healthy/successful.
 - 3. Didn't happen to Mary & many believers in world not deemed w/h/s either.
 - 4. The way to change your circumstances outwardly is changing you inwardly.⁷
- C. *True joy is not found in getting what we want, but in having the One we need, Jesus.*
 - 1. Look at the things that made Mary happy. None of them based on pres. circ.
 - 2. Happy because God made her object spec. care. Happy God blessed her do for Him.
 - 3. Happy because she received mercy. Happy object of divine power.
 - 4. Happy because God was her Savior. Happy because given an eternal hope.
 - 5. S. Olford told about woman who went to her pastor, lamenting.⁸
- D. *Coming to Jesus gives you hope for the future so you can trust God in the present.*
 - 1. Two of my favorite vv. = Romans 8:32 and 2 Peter 1:3.⁹
 - 2. If God has given His Son for our eternal salvation, we can trust Him for all need now.
 - 3. If He has given us all things for life/godliness, we can trust Him for everything else.

⁷ 1 fellow said, *They say that Jesus doesn't perform miracles anymore. I've seen Him perform many miracles. I've seen Him change alcohol into bread. When an alcoholic becomes Christian he starts buying bread for his family instead of alcohol for himself. Jesus can turn drugs into shoes, for when an addict is transformed she buys shoes for her kids instead of drugs for her habit. Jesus can turn a loser into a business man, for when salvation comes the believer becomes responsible and industriousness. Jesus can change a marriage because he changes the two people in the marriage and fills them w/His love. If you want to change your circumstances, the best way I know how is to let Jesus change you.*

⁸ *There must be something wrong in my life, for I do not have joy.* The minister asked, *Are you saved?* and she answered, *Yes.* He said, *Do you know the Lord?* and again she said, *Yes.* He probed further, *Are your sins all washed away?* and again she replied in the affirmative. *Are you glad for all that?* She saw his point and answered, *Well, I certainly ought to be!* *Radiant Living*, "The Satisfaction—Presented," Olford, S. F. (2002). Vol. 2: Institutes of Biblical preaching. Memphis: Olford Ministries International.

⁹ Romans 8:32 & 2 Peter 1:3. http://images.slideplayer.com/9/2476870/slides/slide_13.jpg. Accessed 12/10/16.