

Sermon Brief, Important Cross References and Quotes, Helpful Links, Discussion Questions, Fill in the Blank Listening Aid, “How Well was I Listening Questions”

July 18, 2021

Luke 1:39-56: “Is Your Salvation Big Enough?”

Sermon Brief:

1. We are looking at the introduction to the gospel of Luke.
2. In this introduction, Luke is setting us up for the rest of the gospel. Because in Luke, he’s giving us the answer to a problem, but that answer isn’t going to do us much good, unless we know what the problem is, and so in these first couple of chapters, there’s this introduction so you can understand the question, the problem, the rest of the gospel is going to be answering.
3. But of course he doesn’t do it grocery list style, 1,2,3. Instead, he tells us stories, and one of the primary things he shows us in these first couple stories is just how big and important Jesus is. If you are going to understand the problem Luke solves, you have to understand the claims that were being made about Jesus.
4. And he starts with the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth. And the main point of that story is Jesus is the fulfillment of these great Old Testament promises. Then, there is the second story with Mary, and with that story, he’s proving Jesus can do everything the Old Testament said he would. In fact, it’s as if Luke’s is showing us Jesus is a familiar figure, in that He is the continuation of the Old Testament story, but at the same time, He’s more than just another ancestor of David. Something unusual is going on here.
5. What exactly?
6. To say it another way, we know He is the Savior, but what kind of salvation is this King going to bring, who is it for, what is it going to accomplish, why is it so exciting? Those are the kinds of questions we should be asking, and to answer those questions, it is like, Luke brings in some people in chapters 1 and 2 to sing some songs.
7. In this first chapter you have a woman and a man who are offering explanations, and what I want you to see is how big the salvation God is providing is. Is your salvation big enough? Because I think a lot of us, the way we view salvation is not big enough, and these verses are here to show how big the salvation godly Jewish believers were expecting God to provide through Jesus was.
8. First, he brings in Mary in verses 39 through 56. Mary is the first person he introduces us to in order to explain the salvation God’s accomplishing through Jesus. And in verses 39-45, before she speaks, Luke introduces her and shows us why we should listen to her. We are supposed to learn from Mary because she is an example of a right response to what God’s doing through Jesus, and the right response is faith. But faith in what?
9. And this is verses 46-56. What Mary is trusting God for.
10. She tells us, and you can break down what she says into two sections. She starts out personal in verses 46-50 and then she goes bigger in verses 51 through 55 and talks about the nation.
11. She begins with a topic sentence. “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

12. She's rejoicing in the fact that God is acting to save. **But what kind of salvation are we talking about? What does this salvation mean?**
13. First, this salvation is connected to the Old Testament promises to David. It's a "Davidish" kind of salvation.
14. Second, it is going to be a reversal of the way things currently are.
15. Third, it is an only God can do it kind of salvation.
16. Fourth, it is going to result in God changing everything.
17. Specifically, Mary points out three big changes God is going to make in the way the world works. He is going to make changes on the social level, the political level, and the economic level.
18. Is your salvation big enough? What kind of expectations do you have regarding what God is going to do through Jesus? Mary is being held up in Luke as an example of faith, and these are the kinds of expectations she had for what God was doing through Jesus.
19. But how can we expect that when it doesn't seem like it happened?
20. If you are asking that question, Luke says, you are ready for my gospel, because that's the question I want to answer. Luke wants to help us be certain Jesus really is the fulfillment of every single big promise in Scripture about salvation. He is the one and only Savior and the salvation He is coming to provide is big, bigger than we sometimes appreciate..

Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. Malachi 4:5
2. 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Psalm 113
3. Isaiah 2:11,17
4. Psalm 2
5. "Psalm 2 teaches that the nations of the earth are in rebellion against God. When they rebel the Lord scoffs at them and then places His king, who is also His Son, in Jerusalem to rule the world. Thus, the reign of God will occur in the same place where opposition to Him is presently occurring."
6. Habakkuk 1:2-4

Helpful Links:

1. Again, [Luke Lecture](#)
2. [Tell Out My Soul the Greatness of the Lord](#)
3. [The Magnificat](#)
4. [The Great Reversal](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Sometimes when you write a paper you begin with a thesis statement. If you think of Luke 1 like that, how would you summarize his thesis statement?
2. In the first two stories in Luke, he is showing us the significance of Jesus. What are some things he points out that stood out to you about the person of Jesus?
3. In the last section of chapter 1, he brings in two different people to explain the importance of what God's doing through Jesus. Who are these two different people?

4. What is surprising about the first person he brings in to explain salvation? How does he prepare us to take her seriously?
5. How would you summarize the expectations Mary had for what God was going to do through Jesus?
6. We talked about four general characteristics of the salvation Mary was anticipating. Can you remember what they were?
7. What are some questions or ideas you have as you think about the way Mary describes the salvation God is providing through Jesus?
8. One of the main questions we were asking throughout the message was, "Is your view of salvation big enough?" What part of salvation was Mary anticipating that we sometimes neglect?
9. Maybe the following quote will help. Recently I was reading a great book by Michael Vlach. He talks about having a new creationist perspective. He writes, "What is a new creationist perspective? It is a holistic understanding of the kingdom that gives justice to the multi-faceted dimensions of God's kingdom program. A new creationist approach affirms that God's kingdom involves both spiritual and material elements. It also acknowledges the importance of individuals, the nation Israel, Gentile people, the church. Also this perspective understands that Jesus the Messiah is the center of the kingdom program and the One who restores all things through His two comings to earth. All these play a role in the kingdom...This [approach] emphasizes the physical, social, political and geographical aspects of God's kingdom...This [approach] is contrary to over-spiritualized views of the kingdom associated with the spiritual vision model perspective that downplays the importance of physical and national matters in God's kingdom. A spiritual vision approach often makes the kingdom primarily a spiritual entity, denying the importance of material and tangible parts in God's purposes. It also tends to ignore or reinterpret the significance of national Israel and land promises in Scripture." What do you think he is getting at and what is the connection with Mary's song?

PowerPoint Presentation [Link](#)

Fill in the Blank Listening Aid:

I. Introduction

A. We are looking at the introduction to Luke.

1. In Chapters 1 and 2 Luke introduces us to Jesus. He is the _____ of Israel.
2. In chapters 3 through 9, it's like Jesus then _____ Himself to Israel and proves He is the _____ king.
3. There's a turning point in chapters 9,10 and 11 that's a little bit surprising because we see Israel's _____ Jesus as king. And Luke starts focusing on Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem all the way down to chapter 19. Jesus is explaining to his followers what it means to be a disciple in light of the cross.

4. Then in chapters 19-24, Luke zooms in and talks about the _____. And he proves the crucifixion is not a _____, but part of the plan and so this is the conclusion to the gospel.

B. But right now, we are looking at the introduction. And this introduction is so big, we've had to take it in sections.

1. So far, we've looked at verses _____.
2. And then verses _____, and then verses _____ and now verses _____.
3. It's like Luke is giving us the answer to a problem in his gospel, but obviously that answer isn't going to do you much good unless you know what the problem is, and so in these first couple chapters there is this introduction, so you can understand the _____ the rest of the gospel is going to be answering. But of course he doesn't do it grocery list style, one two three, instead he tells _____, and one of the primary things he shows us in the first couple stories is just how _____ Jesus is, because if you are going to understand the problem Luke is solving, you first have to understand the _____ that were being made about Jesus. Luke wants to make clear through these stories as we look at Jesus that something unusual is going on here.
4. What exactly? We know that Jesus is coming to save, but what kind of salvation is this king going to bring, _____ is it for, what is it going to _____? Those are the kinds of questions we should be asking and to answer those questions, it's like Luke brings in some people to sing some songs. Through their songs they are offering explanations, and what I want you to see is just how _____ the salvation God is providing is.
 - a) First in verses 39-56, he brings in _____. Before he gives us Mary's explanation, he shows us why we should listen to her. We are supposed to learn from Mary because she is an example of a right response to what God's doing through Jesus and the right response is _____. But _____ in what?
 - b) This is verses 46-56. What Mary was _____ God for. She begins with basically a topic sentence. She says, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my _____." So she's rejoicing because God is providing salvation through Jesus, but what kind of salvation are we talking about?

- C. I am going to show you some things about the way Mary describes this salvation that might be a little bit surprising.

II. 4 characteristics of the salvation Mary was expecting

- A. This salvation is connected back to the _____.
1. More specifically, she's expecting a _____ kind of salvation.
- B. This salvation is going to be a _____ of the way things are.
- C. It is going to be an _____ can do it kind of salvation.
- D. This salvation is going to result in God _____ everything.
1. More specifically, if you look down, Mary points out three big changes God is going to make in the way the world works to help his servant Israel.
- a) First of all, He's making changes on the _____ level.
- b) Second, He's making changes on the _____ level.
- c) And third of all He's making changes on the _____ level.

III. Conclusion

- A. Is your view of _____ big enough?
- B. Mary is being held up to us as an _____ of faith. And this is the kind of salvation she was _____. Do we _____ that kind of salvation? I think Luke's saying we should.
- C. But how can we expect that when it doesn't seem like it happened? If you are asking that question, you are ready for Luke's gospel, because that's the question he is seeking to answer. He wants to help you be certain that Jesus is the _____ of every single promise in Scripture about salvation. He is the one and only Savior, and the salvation He is coming to provide is big!.

How Well Was I Listening Questions

That's not a great name for this section. But, I thought you could use these questions for your children. I also realized that it might be helpful for you and not just for your children. So, here are some questions you should be able to answer after listening to the message. (If you are using this with your children, please recognize that obviously not all these questions will be suitable for every age. You might have to come up with your own that will more fit their

level of understanding. I tried to include a little of both. But if you can answer these questions, then you definitely will be able to do that as well.)

1. Today we were in chapter 1 of Luke. We said this was like what in the gospel of Luke? What is he doing in these chapters?
2. What are the first two stories Luke tells us about?
3. After looking at those stories we see that Jesus is really important. God is acting in a very unusual way through Jesus to save. But save us from what? What kind of salvation are we talking about? Those are the questions Luke needs to answer, and he begins by introducing us to two people who will explain the kind of salvation they were expecting. Who were those two people?
4. Why is it surprising that Luke has Mary explain salvation to us? What does that tell you about God?
5. What do you think the word salvation means?
6. Why do we need to be saved? What do we need to be saved from?
7. Mary is really young, but if you look at her song, she quotes a lot of Scripture! What one song in particular was she alluding to? Can you think of any reason why knowing that might be important?
8. Is the salvation the New Testament is talking about totally different than the salvation the Old Testament promised?
9. Mary expects that Jesus is going to be installed as king and that is going to result in many different blessings. First, she describes what this means for her personally. She says God has looked on the humble estate of his servant, and the result is that from now on, all generations would call her blessed. What was humble about Mary's situation back then? Why did she really have to have faith to believe that others would call her blessed? And what is she saying about what God is doing through Jesus?
10. As Mary thinks about this salvation, she worships God. In particular she identifies three characteristics of God in verses 49 and 50. What are those three characteristics? The reason she is identifying God like this is as a way of saying the salvation Jesus is delivering is the kind of salvation only God can accomplish. And this is an important point just in general to understand about salvation. Can we save ourselves? Who has to save us?
11. Mary believes God is going to change everything through Jesus. Can you remember the three specific changes she says that Jesus is going to make?
12. This might have been a little bit of a harder sermon to understand, but here's what you need to know. God is going to change things in this world through Jesus. Those changes are going to be real and ultimately they are going to be lasting. Godly humble people are going to be honored. There is going to be a rescue for them like the one we read about in Exodus but bigger. God is going to humble the proud, He is going to take wicked political figures out of their positions of power, and he is going to create a world where no one goes hungry ever again. Basically, He is going to reverse the curse and fulfill the promise He made to Abraham. What difference do you think it would make if you believe that?