Sermon Notes 12.11.2022 – Heading to the Celebration of Christmas

After the Angel's Visit – A Meeting with Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 **When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit**. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! 43 "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 "And **blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."**
46 And **Mary said:** "**My soul exalts the Lord**, 47 **And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior**. 48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. 49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. 50 "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. 51 "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.
Luk52 "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. 53 "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed. 54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever." 56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

6+3…She stayed for the birth of John and returned home looking very much "with child."
Three Months Later Mary Would be Found Holding the Christ Child in a Stable in Bethlehem.

Hannah, the mother of the Judge, Samuel, sang a similar Song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Preparing to Celebrate the Birth of Jesus - Let's Listen to What Mary Declared

My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior

My soul shouts the greatness of God and the spiritual life in me rejoices to know God my Savior

He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave – God prefers the humble

From this time on all generations will count me blessed – Every Generation has – for 2000 Years

The Mighty One has done great things for me – Count your blessings – "Great things" not "a great thing"

And holy is His name. –

A characteristic unique to God's nature which becomes the goal for human moral character. The idea of "holy" is important for an understanding of God, of worship, and of the people of God in the Bible. **Holy has four distinct meanings**. **First** is "to be set apart." This applies to places where God is present, like the Temple and the tabernacle, and to things and persons related to those holy places or to God Himself. **Next**, it means to be "**perfect**, transcendent, or **spiritually pure**, **evoking adoration and reverence**." This applies

primarily to God, but secondarily to saints or godly people. **Next**, it means something or **someone who evokes "veneration or awe, being frightening beyond belief**." This is clearly the application to God and is the primary meaning of "holy." It is continued in the **last definition**, "filled with superhuman and potential fatal power." This speaks of God, but also of places or things or persons which have been set apart by God's presence. A saint is a holy person. To be sanctified is to be made holy. *~ Holman's Bible Dictionary*

> **Four Things for Which God is Worshipped in Heaven** in the Book of Revelation:
>
> The work of Creation, The work of Salvation, His Mighty Acts, and His Holy Character

He has done mighty deeds with His arm – His Mighty Acts

HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

- Fear, Reverence, and Awe God is Love but also a "Consuming Fire"

> **Hebrews 12:28-29** Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may **offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe**; 29 for **our God is a consuming fire.**

He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

> Spiritual Check-up – What is the character of "the thoughts of (our) heart"

He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

> Be Very Aware – God chooses the humble

HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS And sent away the rich empty-handed

> What are the "Good Things" that we treasure

He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy

> His Servants are Thankful for His Help / Thankful for His Mercy

Listen Carefully to the Words of, "…the bondslave of the Lord" Luke 1:38

We are all Celebrating the Season when 'God Came Down'

Matthew 1:21-23 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for **He will save His people** from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND **THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."**

Our God So Loved Us That He Came Down To Us