A Heart Prepared

Day Four – The Magnificat.

Have you ever heard of "Hannah's Prayer"? In your Old Testament reading, you would have encountered it in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Mary's prayer of joy, often called "The Magnificat," in Luke 1:46-55, has many similarities to "Hannah's Prayer." Each praises the Lord in its own way. They share joy in the Lord, and each carries warnings to the arrogant and proud. They lift up the humble and the poor. They promise those who respect the Lord and warn the wicked to turn away from their ways. I find each inspiring in its own way.

Interestingly, Zechariah and Elizabeth's situation is like Eli and Hannah's. Each had a child late in life who would go on to serve the Lord in their own way. I encourage you to spend time reading 1 Samuel 2, chapters 1 and 2, and Luke 1. Truly, we see the Lord working in remarkable ways.

Mary, despite her precarious situation as a pregnant woman outside of marriage, still chooses to praise the Lord. Her words are both inspiring and cautionary. She acknowledges the great things the Lord has done for her and recounts how the Lord has scattered the proud. The mighty have been brought down from their thrones, and the rich have been sent away empty. This foreshadows what her son, Jesus, would share in His ministry. God does not measure success by pride. Rather, He chooses humility, mercy, and charity, all done out of love.

The Magnificat and Hannah's Prayer are timeless reminders of the God we have: a loving and generous God. They also show that the God we have holds people and nations accountable for their actions. His standards are not what the world considers success. He looks at how they care for His people. This reminds us to hold on to it every day, not just during the Christmas season. We should rejoice in the Lord every day and pass on that way of life to future generations.

Leaning on Jesus
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