

MAGNIFICAT MOMENTS

(Luke 1:39-55)

Intro: "My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
-Luke 1:46-47.
-So begins the Song of Mary.
#Although a few scholars believe it was the Song of Elizabeth.
#Known as the Magnificat.
*From the Latin word.
+Which begins the song.
+Which means "magnifies."
*"Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

As we come to another celebration of:

- Christmas.
- God's gift of:
 - #Christ child.
 - #Savior.

How shall our souls magnify the Lord?

- With Magnificat Moments.
 - #My soul magnifies the Lord.

I. What Lord?

- A. The Divine Lord Who Took On Human Form.
 - 1. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth.
 - a. Both of them pregnant.
 - Elizabeth pregnant:
 - #In her old age.
 - #After years of barrenness.
 - Mary pregnant.
 - #Without the assistance of a man.
 - #Through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Elizabeth's baby did cartwheels in her womb.
 - c. Elizabeth said:
 - "Why has this happened to me?"
 - "That the mother of my Lord comes to me?"
 - #Luke 1:43.
 - d. Magnificat Moment.

2. Mary's baby.
 - a. Does not become Lord.
 - At his birth.
 - At his baptism.
 - At his crucifixion.
 - At his resurrection.
 - At his ascension into heaven.
 - b. He is Lord.
 - Who comes to be born of the Virgin Mary.
3. Jesus.
 - a. No human who becomes Lord.
 - b. Lord who becomes human.
 - Magnificat Moment.

B. Listen How The *Magnificat* Describes This Lord.

1. He looks with favor upon the lowly.
2. He does great things.
3. His name is holy.
4. He shows mercy.
5. He scatters the proud.
6. He brings down the mighty.
7. He lifts up the lowly.
8. He fills the hungry with good things.
9. He sends the rich away empty.
10. He remembers his mercy.
11. He makes and keeps his promises.
 - a. Although I put these divine attributes into the present tense.
 - b. *Magnificat* puts them into the past tense.
 - Actually in Greek.
 - #Aorist tense.
 - *Past.
 - *Done.
 - *Completely done.
 - This Lord who:
 - #Became human in the person of Jesus.
 - #Lived.
 - #Died.
 - #Rose again.
 - *Has done all these things.

- This Lord who:
 - #Became human in the person of Jesus.
 - #Lived.
 - #Died.
 - #Rose again.
 - *Continues to do all these things.
- So we can sing:
 - #With Mary.
 - #With Elizabeth.
 - *"My soul magnifies the Lord,"
 - *"And my spirit rejoices in God my savior."
 - #Magnificat Moment.

II. How Do We Magnify This Lord?

- A. There Is A Story Of A Young Thomas Edison.
 1. His mother became suddenly, gravely ill.
 - a. Doctor was summoned.
 - b. Doctor determined that immediate, emergency surgery was necessary.
 2. There were a couple of complicating issues.
 - a. There wasn't enough time.
 - To get Edison's mother to the hospital.
 - b. There wasn't enough light in the house.
 - For the doctor to see well enough to perform surgery.
 3. Young Edison took over.
 - a. He ordered:
 - All of the:
 - #Candles.
 - #Lamps.
 - *In the house.
 - *To be brought into the dining room.
 - All of the mirrors in the house.
 - #Be brought as well.
 - b. He surrounded the dining room table.
 - First with the candles and lamps.
 - Then with the mirrors.
 - #Light was reflected:
 - *From mirror.
 - *To mirror.
 - *To mirror.
 - *To mirror.

- #Creating a bright field of light.
- *Above the dining room table.
- *So that a successful surgery could be performed.

B. How Can That Light Be Magnified Among Us?

1. We are not the light.

- a. Jesus.
 - Christ child.
 - Lord.
 - #Is the light of the world.

b. We are the mirrors.

- Reflecting the light.
- #From point.
- #To point.
- #To point.
- #To point.

-Magnifying the light.

2. How do we do that?

a. Or rather, how does God do that among us?

-Who are like Bethlehem.

#Micah 5: 2.

*So few.

*So small.

b. Let me count some of the ways.

-We believe.

#In this Christ child.

#In this savior of the world.

#In this light of the world.

*Don't underestimate the power of faith.

*What does Elizabeth say about Mary?

+ "Blessed is she who believed . . ."

= Luke 1: 45.

+ Isn't that part of the miracle of Mary?

= Not simply:

- Virgin conception.

- Virgin birth.

= But that she believed.

- Humbly, not arrogantly.

- Her child to be the savior of the world.

*Don't underestimate the power of faith.

+ Blessed are you who believe.

+ Your soul magnifies the Lord.

+ Your spirit rejoices in God your savior.

*Magnificat Moment.

- We sing.
 - #Like Mary.
 - *Or Elizabeth.
 - #We who are so few.
 - *20-25 at 8:30.
 - *40-45 at 11:00.
 - #We will probably have some reinforcements.
 - *On Christmas Eve.
 - +People who are drawn to the light.
 - =Or at least the light in this place.
 - +Maybe only once or twice a year.
 - =Christmas Eve.
 - =Easter.
 - =Mother's Day.
 - +We are going to sing.
 - =Lessons and Carols for Christmas.
 - #Don't underestimate the power of song.
 - *Last month.
 - +20th anniversary.
 - =Fall of the Berlin Wall.
 - November 9, 1989.
 - *To those of us in the West.
 - +It may have seemed.
 - =Berlin Wall.
 - Up one day.
 - #Down the next.
 - Closed one day.
 - #Open the next.
 - *Did you know?
 - +During the two months.
 - =Prior to the fall of the wall.
 - =Citizens of Leipzig.
 - Gathered at St. Nikolas Church.
 - #Place where Johann Sebastian Bach.
 - *Composed many of his cantatas.
 - +What did they do there?
 - =They sang.
 - *Every Monday evening.
 - +Monday Demonstrations.
 - *Songs of:
 - +Protest.
 - +Justice.
 - +Peace.
 - +Hope.

- *At first.
 - +Less than a 1000 people.
- *Eventually.
 - +More than 300,000.
 - =More than half the city.
 - +Overflowing into Karl Marx Square.
- =They magnified the Lord.
 - *Like Joshua at Jericho.
 - +Wall came tumbling down.
- #Don't underestimate the power of song.
 - *My soul magnifies the Lord.
 - *My spirit rejoices in God my savior.
- #Magnificat Moments.
 - We feed the hungry with good things.
 - #Not just at:
 - *Thanksgiving.
 - *Christmas.
 - +Although our efforts get multiplied.
 - =During these last couple of months.
 - #But throughout the year.
 - *Food for Family & Children's Services.
 - *HUGS for Oaks.
 - +Hats.
 - +Underwear.
 - +Gloves.
 - +Scarves.
 - =For the children at Oaks Indian Mission.
 - *Toiletries and underwear for Operation Hope Prison Ministry.
 - +To assist ex-offenders.
 - =Make the transition back into the community.
- #Magnificat Moments.
 - *My soul magnifies the Lord,
 - *And my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
- #Who gets fed and lifted up?
 - *Hungry of Tulsa?
 - +Yes.
 - *Children at Oaks?
 - +Yes.
 - *Ex-offenders in our community?
 - +Yes.
 - *What about us?
 - +Us, too.

#Lord gets magnified.
*Through us.
*In us.

Concl: Here at this altar.
-In bread and wine.
-Lord:
#Fills the hungry with good things.
#Lifts up the lowly.
*In remembrance of his mercy.

Magnificat Moment.
-My soul magnifies the Lord,
-And my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

As we go:
-Home.
-Back to work.
-Back to school.
-To celebrate Christmas.
#With:
*Family.
*Friends.

How will we magnify?
-Light.
-Magnificat Moments.

