

the streets of Chicago wearing a sandwich board, shouting the Scripture verses on the board for all to hear. Dr. Ironside agreed to this venture and when he returned to his study and removed the board, he said to himself, "I'll bet there's not another man in town who would do that."

Mary understood humility in circumstances and humility of heart: "I am the Lord's servant."

Imagine what a different world we would live in if we all followed Mary's philosophy. When we find our place of humility -- when we are willing to lay aside whatever "rights" we may have in life to serve God and to reach out and serve others, this life-changing song begins to be sung through our lives.

"None are as empty as those who are full of themselves." - Benjamin Whichcote

Have you ever met a prideful, arrogant person? Prideful people are always telling you about themselves, their accomplishments, and how smart and wonderful they are. Then they look at you to continue the conversation about them and to affirm their magnificence. Which of us could not name at least one person we know who acts like that?

So what is humility, and what makes humble people different? Humility is the absence of self in all we think, do or say. You know when you encounter humility because you are irresistibly drawn to and awestruck by its presence.

People with the quality of humility are interested in everyone else. In conversations, they want to know about you. They are not looking for ways you can be a blessing to them, they are looking for ways they can bless you. Humility is the very opposite of pride and arrogance. In a disagreement, pride is concerned with who is right while humility is concerned with what is right. Pride and arrogance are all about self. They are always looking down at everyone else. Humility looks up.

Why talk about yourself anyway? As soon as you leave the room, there are plenty of people willing to do it for you. Abraham Lincoln said, "What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself."

2. A Song for the Helpless . Verses 50, 54

I was there in the delivery room when our children were born. I remember the doctor delivering them, the nurse cleaning them up, and checking them out. They were helpless, weak, utterly dependant on the good graces of the people in charge of their care. They remained helpless for years, though they grew and gained strength. As their skills grew and their knowledge increased, they were still my "dependents," just as we are dependent on God.

Are you feeling helpless today? Are there runaway circumstances beyond your control? Mistakes made with results you cannot change? Demands made upon you that you cannot meet? Or maybe sin that you cannot overcome?

Mary's song says, "His mercy EXTENDS to those who fear Him..." like a hand reaching down to us when we've fallen.

When we are HUMBLE and acknowledge our HELPLESSNESS that is when we discover God's mercy and grace and we discover "the song."

Redemption is a word implying helplessness. The picture of redemption is of one held captive by forces that cannot be overcome. Only a third party can intervene to rescue. Redemption never comes by our own efforts. Spiritually, redemption cannot happen without a Redeemer. This word is precious because it reminds followers of Jesus that relationship with Him has been purchased at great cost.

3. A Song for the Hungry . Verse 53

Leonard Ravenhill said "A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God."

John MacArthur said that Mary illustrates the hungry heart that wants to understand the depth of this great salvation.

God is, by nature, like a grandmother who hates to see children go away from her table hungry. However, neither will she let you fill up on junk food!

Those who desire the righteous life that God offers and refuse to "fill up" on the "junk food" of sinful indulgence are the ones He seeks to fill.

It's the difference between being full (with junk) and being satisfied (with good food) -- God wants to satisfy you with things that will give lasting joy and peace.

And unlike Grandma, God allows singing at the table!

4. A Song for All Humanity . Verse 55

Human Eyes:

- Are the most complex organs you possess except for your brain.
- Are composed of more than two million working parts.
- Can process 36,000 bits of information every hour.
- Under the right conditions, can discern the light of a candle at a distance of 22.5 km (14 miles)
- Contribute towards 85% of your total knowledge.
- Utilize 65% of all the pathways to the brain.
- Can instantaneously set in motion hundreds of muscles and organs in your body.
- In a normal life-span, will bring you almost 24 million images of the world around you.
- The eye is the only part of the human body that can function at 100% ability at any moment, day or night, without rest. Your eyelids need rest, the external muscles of your eyes need rest, the lubrication of your eyes requires replenishment, but your eyes themselves "never" need rest.

God did such an amazing job at creating our eyes, but He never intended that we would trust our eyes more than we would trust our God. Perhaps the greatest thing about this gift of a song is that it is there for all to sing -- both the virtuoso and the musically challenged.

Mary declared that the promise of Christ was "...to Abraham and all his descendants forever..."

All those who follow in the footsteps of faith like Abraham (who did not see Christ in his lifetime but lived as though he did) are able to sing this song of God's promise through Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

If you do a Google search for Christmas songs you'll pull up around 55 million websites. But if you refine the search you can look under Keywords "Songs of Christmas" and narrow it down to 137,000. The list includes "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth," "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," Frosty the Snowman," Handles "Messiah," "Ava Maria," "O Holy Night"...and everything in between.

Some of these Christmas songs are stupid and silly...they make us laugh...others look at Christmas through the eyes of a jolly old Elf and his reindeer...some of these songs turn our hearts from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, they provide hope, joy, peace, and love. As we prepare to celebrate that birth once again and think about

the songs of Christmas, how could we start at any other place than "The Song of Mary?"

It's magnificent... The Magnificat...It's the overflow of a servant's heart in praise and adoration...It doesn't matter if this took place in June or December...It's the proclamation of a Saviors birth, a Kings throne, a Redeemer's rescue...A Promise Kept... It's the original and most beautiful of Christmas songs. It reminds us ...

***"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"***

In the Fullness of Time

The story is told about a man who was tired of the Christmas hoopla, all the frantic haste and the crass commercialism. So he decided not to go along with the crowd. Foremost, he decided not to send Christmas cards. For the first ten days of December he felt good about his decision. But as the mail brought him greetings from friends near and far, he began to feel more and more guilt. Finally, four days before Christmas, he gave in. He rushed down to the drug store and grabbed the only box of cards still on the shelf. He bought it, purchased stamps, rushed home, and addressed cards frantically all evening. He addressed 49 cards. He had one card left over which he tossed on the mantle. That very evening he drove down to the post office and mailed the cards.

The next day he was strolling through the house and happened to see that extra card on the mantle. Suddenly it occurred to him that he had addressed and signed all those cards but had not actually read what the card said. So, he grabbed the card and took a look. This is what it said: "This cheery card has come to say: A gift from me is on the way."

The whole meaning of the Advent season prior to Christmas is this: a gift from God is on the way. The basic reason we offer Christmas gifts to each other is to honor and reflect the only perfect gift ever offered--the gift of God through a Bethlehem baby named Jesus.

People tend to gravitate to one of two camps concerning Christmas. There are those who say, "I just love this time of year. I wish it could last all year long." There are others who say, "I can't wait for Christmas to be done so we can get busy with life again." I suppose it's all a matter of how we look at things.

William Barclay once said, "In a world that's bent on getting, the Christian must be bent on giving, for we know that what we keep we lose, and what we give we have."

Galatians 4:4-5 says: "But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Why was the time when Jesus was born the right time? Why did God choose the land of Palestine as the birth place of Jesus? Why was 5 BC (or somewhere in there) the year Jesus was born and not some other year? In the fullness of time, when the time was right Jesus came. God created the first human couple, Adam and Eve and Bible scholars estimate that by 3000 BC the world population was 100 million. Abraham lived 2166 to 1991 BC. Moses lived 1526-1406 and during his time Genesis was written. King David reigned over Israel 1010 to 997 BC. Isaiah served as prophet 740 to 680 BC. Minor prophets (Joel to Malachi) were active from 800 BC to 500 BC. Jesus was born 5 BC and his death and resurrection took place 30 AD. The Apostle John became a disciple of Jesus AD 26, and wrote the book of Revelation sometime between AD 90 and 96. From Genesis to Revelation there is a time span of 1,500 years. And Jesus came at just the right time.

As you celebrate Christmas this year, remember a gift is not just on the way, but the gift is here. Jesus Christ has come to live in the hearts and lives of all who believe in Him.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment... and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatirck, Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Monday, December 3

Food Kitchen

Wednesday, December 5

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

*Christmas Tea
at the Lanes
2-4 pm*

Wednesday, December 12

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 15

Church-wide Caroling.....4:00 pm

Up-Coming Events

December 3 — Serve at West Valley Food Kitchen

December 9 — Christmas Tea at the Lanes

December 12 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

December 15 — Church-wide Caroling 4:00 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We **will not** have Sunday night service tonight. Plan to join us next time we meet. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

Also, we have been viewing a study on **Spiritual Gifts** by Ken Hemphill. See you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Church-wide Caroling

December 15, 4:00 pm

The Christmas Card Mail Box

will be in the hallway (where the bulletin boards were) by the first Sunday in December. If you would like to share cards with your church family, you may place them in the box throughout the month of December. We suggest you use the money you save on postage to contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church goal is \$1,500.00

Temporary Address Change

Doris Richardson
C/O Debbie Smith
8046 South Point Drive
Camden, MO 64017

For the Record-

Attendance: November 18, 2018

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	30
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	39
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	??

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 816.59
Long Family –Oct.	\$ 80.00

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
09 ... Allison Adkinson
11 ... George Ferbert
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Leona Reynolds
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Jack and Flo Conard
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Mike Green
Doris Richardson
Sandy and Stanley Wilson

Brendan Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia
Linda Huff—cancer treatment
Jim Winans—recuperation
June Fritchle—recovery
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
