

**Intrude (Luke's Epiphany)**  
**Luke 1:39-56**  
**Mary Visits Elizabeth**  
**Wednesday Class (12/18/24)**

Read Luke 1:39-45

*Why do you think that Mary traveled "with haste" (v. 39)? Why was she eager to make this trip?*

It's interesting to note that two major characters, Jesus and John, meet symbolically through their mothers. In this meeting, John starts pointing to Jesus even from the womb.

*Do you think this was predicted by the angel in Luke 1:15-17?*

*If John's leaping for joy, about what do you think he is rejoicing?*

*Why is it significant that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit?*

*How did she know Mary was expecting this special child?*

Elizabeth expresses great humility in Mary's presence (v. 43). Read in John 3:30 how her son echoes his mother's humility, many years later.

*Does Elizabeth sound joyful? Why?*

Read again Elizabeth's blessing of Mary (v. 45).

*How might Mary have felt when Elizabeth greeted her like this?*

Read Luke 1:46-56.

In the first part of Mary's hymn, she offers personal praise for her specific situation (v. 46-50). Her words echo 1 Samuel 2:1 and Psalm 35:9, which you're welcome to read.

*When Mary says, "From now on all generations will call me blessed," do you think she's glorifying herself? Or glorifying God?*

The second section of her hymn offers praise for God's activity in general (v. 51-55).

*What parts of this song stand out for you?*

*Which phrases tell us the most about Mary's attitude toward God? Toward her own situation?*

*Does the song indicate a level of understanding about God's plan for her child to be the bringer of salvation?*

*What contrasts does she make in vs. 51-53?*

*How do these reflect her feelings about God? About herself?*

*Who are the "proud, rulers, rich" whose overthrow she celebrates?*

*How will her son Jesus fulfill the themes of this song?*

*What attributes of God are celebrated in Mary's song? Which do you appreciate most? Which challenges you most?*

It's been said that "Humility is the natural product of reflection about who God is."

*Agree? True in your experience?*

*Do you think ancient believers like Mary and Elizabeth had a greater sense of awe in God's presence than modern believers? Why was that?*