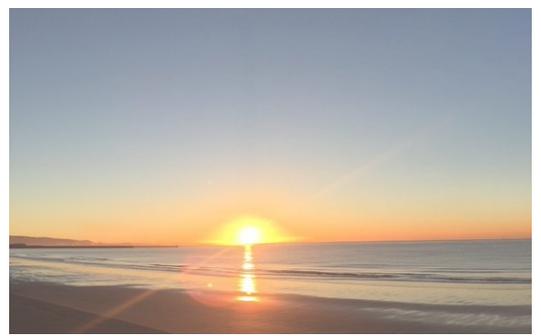


# Mary's Song

His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation. Luke 1:50



Luke was not one of the twelve disciples, he never met Jesus, so when he wrote his account of Jesus' life he must have relied on stories that were told about Jesus and interviews with people who did live with him. For Luke to have any idea of the events around Jesus' birth the only source would have been Mary the mother of Jesus. So the question we start with is: If you had the opportunity to meet Mary, what would you ask her?

## Read Luke 1:26-45

1. What does Luke's account tell us about what happened?
2. Whose viewpoint is Luke writing from?
3. How does Luke describe the feelings of the characters?

There are parts of the Nativity Story that we brush over, maybe because we don't understand how they fit together or perhaps because we have no understanding or evidence for the details. The census mentioned in 2:1 is an example, Mary's Song is another. It feels a bit odd that Mary should travel to Elizabeth's house, be asked why she has come to visit and then burst into song. Especially when the song does not answer the question.

Instead, we focus on Mary's humility, her earnest desire to glorify God and her understanding that God is about to do something for the most unblessed in society. All of which is true, but a little out of place. Is this Luke's understanding, or has the question changed?

If Mary was talking to Luke, telling him about all the events that surrounded the birth of Jesus, Luke sat and listened and took notes. Then perhaps he interrupted with a question that he had been burning to ask. Mary, how did you feel when all this was going on?

## Read Luke 1:46-55

1. How does Mary's Song describe her feelings?
2. How do you think she might have, perhaps should have, felt about her situation?
3. How do the two vary? Can you think why that might be?
4. From verse 50 onwards it is not just about her. Who else is included?
5. From vv. 51-55, how does Jesus fulfil those statements? Can you think of examples?

## In deeper

We are often encouraged to think of why and what the writers of the books in the bible have written, but rarely do we think of when? All of the gospels were written after the event. The writers and contributors have had time to think and reflect on what happened. Mary had many reasons to be very frightened indeed, yet when she was interviewed by Luke she could look back and see it in a different light.

- Think for a moment why Mary might have been fearful, there is quite a list.
- What are the feelings that Mary did experience? vv. 47-49
- Can you think of times in your life when feeling fearful or frightened would have been natural, however that was not your experience?

May the God of Mary and Elizabeth strengthen your faith and grant you peace. May the God of Joseph and Zechariah give you wisdom and hope. May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bring you joy this Christmas time.