

still waters

home church studies

Luke 1.47-55

[Worship]

47 "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]



by Peter B. Price

The impossible is possible! An infertile woman becomes pregnant (Luke 1:13, 24, 36). A virgin conceives (1:35). Gabriel, the mythical war angel, instructs Mary to name the child after a freedom fighter: "You must name him

Jesus" (or Joshua). The name means "savior"—a title, like Son of the Most High (1:32), often given to Greek and Roman military leaders.

Mary is told that "the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule forever" (1:32-33). This rule will be marked by "saving justice and fair judgments, faithful love and constancy" (Psalm 89:14). This strong

This strong political message will fulfill the hopes and dreams of generations who have longed for liberation.

Overwhelmed, Mary asks, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" (1:34). Suddenly, it's all very human. God chooses to achieve his purpose in the ordinary—someone's will, a woman's womb, a displaced birth (Luke 2:4-5), life among the outcast and poor (Matthew 8:20; Luke 7:34). And in the child of the barren one, the moment of quickening is the sign of God's spirit entering another human being (1:41).

When people like Elizabeth and Mary find the courage to cooperate with God, the impossible becomes possible.

Talking Points

Have you ever experienced the impossible becoming possible? What happened? Have you ever seen love come to birth as a result of someone's courage and vulnerability? Where are the signs of "saving justice and fair judgments, faith and constancy," that mark God's reign?

Reflection and Action

In what ways have you brought about some change during the past few weeks?

[Scripture]

Romans 16.25-27

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.