The Merriment of Christmas

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THE MEETING OF CHRISTMAS

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Merry Christmas!

You may notice that the Magnificat is how many references to the Psalms float within this holy cloud of words. How could Mary be so joyful when she had just been told she was becoming pregnant before marriage, in a culture where that was punishable by death? Partly because she realized she was bearing a Lord and Savior—not just a Savior for herself, but for the whole world. Calvin says, “Till God has been recognized as a Savior, the minds of men [and women] are not free to indulge indulgence or idol you need to forsake? Perhaps worry is cramping your style? Apply these thoughts to the matter in hand—Be it unto me according to Your Word.”

She ran off to share the news with her cousin Elizabeth. “Now follows,” says Calvin in his commentary on the gospel of Luke, “a remarkable and interesting song of the holy virgin....” Her humble response—“Be it unto me according to Your Word”—is called “the Fiat,” or “may it be so.”

Her song (called the Magnificat):

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God our Lord and Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and has removed the pride of the heart of the mighty.
He has filled his servant Israel,
with strength for salvation;
and has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has put down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and has satisfied the hungry. Your mercies, Lord, are everlasting.

The Magnificat. We will not promise, predicted, promised, or now granted these to God. Instead, the church: ‘the church:’ •

First, offer thanksgiving for God’s mercy to you. He has given you His Word, the offer of eternal salvation—and even “all indulgence or idol you need to forsake? Perhaps worry is cramping your style? Apply these thoughts to the matter in hand—Be it unto me according to Your Word.”

The Fiat—“God, I submit to Your will and Your salvation,” explains all the evil in this dark world? How can I possibly get everything done? Why does it matter? How much will it cost?

It can be easy for women to live in doubt and anxiety at this time of year. Will the relatives get here—or even get along? What will the family gatherings be like? The pressure to plan and perform is upon us. What if something goes wrong?

There are three clauses in this song.

1. There are three clauses in this song.

2. There are three clauses in this song.

3. There are three clauses in this song.

When People Displace Jesus

Whose side are you on? Do you live in the light of Christ or in the darkness of self-indulgence? Do you see Jesus in your friends and family or are you focusing on their failings? Mary clearly saw Jesus in the water in the womb—considered a Christ-given, the Christian, His presence. Their response is your own personal meditation! 

About the Author:

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Leah Farish teaches college women on sex, language, and public speaking in Oklahoma. She also loves connecting women to each other through encouraging, honest, and her husband served in Christian Pedestrian in Tulsa, where, having ancestors, they are also preparing to launch the church she birthed.

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