

All Age Service Talk  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
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Have you ever been afraid, scared, not knowing what to do or where to go?



Mary was 'in trouble' – unmarried, pregnant and (who would believe her story) – an angel speaking to her! And to top it all, Joseph wanted to end the engagement.

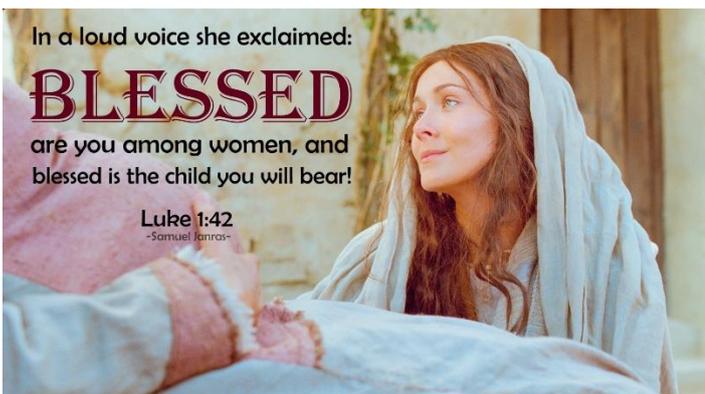
Mary ran away, she went to her cousin, Elizabeth, an older wiser woman, maybe she would help her.....

We all get afraid in life – at school, at work, lots of different situations and even at home! Facing unknown situations can be scary. Where can you go!



There are people who we can trust to help us. Often an older wiser Christian is always a good place to turn.

When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house, the baby leapt in Elizabeth's womb!! Elizabeth knew there was something different about Mary and her son. Elizabeth gave Mary the reassurance she needed.



What a difference to Mary, Elizabeth believed her and her story. Her baby was going to be special.

Mary then sang this beautiful song of praise to her son and Saviour:

### **Luke 1 (CEV)**

<sup>46</sup> Mary said:

With all my heart  
I praise the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and I am glad  
because of God my Saviour.  
<sup>48</sup> He cares for me,  
his humble servant.  
From now on,  
all people will say  
God has blessed me.  
<sup>49</sup> God All-Powerful has done  
great things for me,  
and his name is holy.  
<sup>50</sup> He always shows mercy  
to everyone  
who worships him.  
<sup>51</sup> The Lord has used  
his powerful arm  
to scatter those  
who are proud.  
<sup>52</sup> He drags strong rulers  
from their thrones  
and puts humble people  
in places of power.  
<sup>53</sup> God gives the hungry  
good things to eat,  
and sends the rich away  
with nothing.  
<sup>54</sup> He helps his servant Israel  
and is always merciful  
to his people.  
<sup>55</sup> The Lord made this promise  
to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his family  
forever!

Looking at this today over 2000 years later what does it mean for us today?

Thinking how Mary felt, let's look at something Mary said:

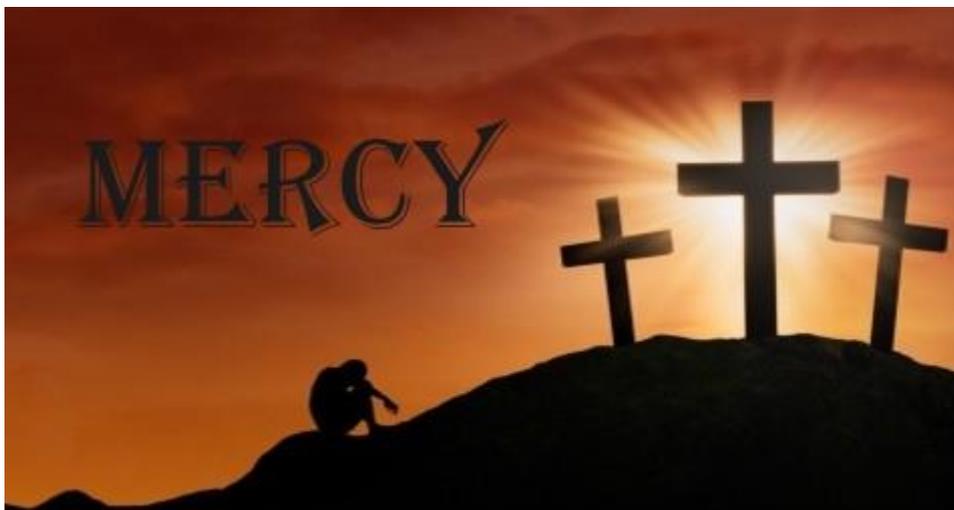
**I am glad  
because of God my Saviour.**  
<sup>48</sup> **He cares for me,  
his humble servant.**



As a Mother you care for your children, but Mary recognised that her son would care for her.  
Mary's son too will care for you.

**He always shows mercy  
to everyone  
who worships him.**

**...and is always merciful  
to his people.**



Here is a definition of Mercy:

*'compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.'*

Mary's son would show her mercy and compassion, even though she didn't deserve it.

We don't deserve mercy and compassion from Mary's son, but he will show it to us if we trust and worship him.

**He puts humble people  
in places of power.**  
<sup>53</sup> **God gives the hungry  
good things to eat**



Mary's son lifts the humble and gives good food to the poor! Many people in this world look down on people who are poor and humble. Mary was poor and humble, but her son would lift her up. Mary's son wants only the best for people. He cares for the poor and humble. We need to follow the example of Mary's son and care for people in our world today. There are opportunities this time of year to help those around us. We should follow Mary's son and help the poor and humble.

<sup>55</sup> **The Lord made this promise  
to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his family  
forever!**

Mary realised that her son was from everlasting to everlasting and his promise would last for eternity.



Everlasting Father is a name given to Mary's son by the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before his birth. We can be assured the promises Mary spoke of before the birth of Jesus are everlasting and hold true for us today, caring for his children for an everlasting eternity.

**Have you put your Trust in Mary's son. He will care for you and show you mercy and compassion.**



We will close by singing the words of Mary in the hymn 'Tell out my Soul'

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;  
his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

Blessing

**May the care and mercy of Mary's Son  
bless you and keep you  
and bring peace to your soul,  
this day and forever, Amen.**