

December 3, 2023
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Luke 1:1-56

“Songs of the First Christmas” – Part 1

- I. Introduction – 1:1-4
- II. The Son of Man Comes – 1:5-4:13
 - A. Announcement of the Forerunner – 1:5-25
 - 1. The Setting (5-10)
 - 2. The Revelation (11-17)
 - 3. The Responses (18-25)
 - a. Zacharias (18)
 - b. Gabriel (19-20)
 - c. The People (21-22)
 - d. Elizabeth (23-25)
 - B. Announcement of the Coming King – 1:26-56
 - 1. The Setting (26-27)
 - 2. The Revelation (28-33)
 - 3. The Responses (34-56)
 - a. Mary (34)
 - b. Gabriel (35-37)
 - c. Mary (38-40)
 - d. Elizabeth (41-45)
 - e. Mary’s Song [Magnificat] (46-55)
 - 1) Praise to God for what He has done for Mary – v. 46-48
 - 2) God’s grace and mercy extends to those who fear Him – v. 49-50
 - 3) God’s mercy contrasted with God’s severity toward the proud – v. 51-53
 - 4) God’s mercy is in fulfillment of His covenant promises – v. 54-55
 - f. Mary’s Stay (56)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. If someone were to ask you the following questions, what would you say?
If Jesus is the promised Jewish Messiah, why do so many Jewish people reject Him?
Why should Gentiles believe in Him?
2. When Zacharias received a revelation from Gabriel, how long had it been since the last time God gave revelation to the nation of Israel? [Hint: the book of Malachi] What does the connection between Malachi and Luke 1?
3. Compare the response of Zacharias with the response of Mary. They both respond to the angel's announcement with a question. What was the difference between the two questions?
4. Why was it difficult for Zacharias to believe what the angel said? Can godly people doubt God's word? Do you ever doubt? Share your best practices when you have doubts?
5. Give a one sentence summary of each of the responses of Zacharias, the people, and Elizabeth. What are the differences between them?
6. How would you answer someone who says that Mary was sinless and remained a perpetual virgin after Jesus was born? Read verses 28-30. What did the angel mean when he called her "favored one" and said she had "found favor with God." Use Scripture to support your answers.
7. Read Mary's response in v. 38. Why is this a great example of faith / trust in God? What consequences might she experience when others hear she is pregnant? What consequences have you experienced because you chose to live in obedience to God's will? See Hebrews 11:24-26. What helped Moses be obedient when it led to ill-treatment and reproach from people in the world? What verses could you memorize to help you do the same?
8. Read Mary's song (vv. 46-55). How much of it is from the Old Testament? How would this help one of Luke's Gentile readers with the questions in #1 above? What is the connection between the Old Testament and Jesus? What are some of your favorite Old Testament passages about the birth and ministry of Jesus the Messiah (Christ)?
9. Are you convinced that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world? If not, why not? If so, make plans to tell people who don't currently know Jesus as Lord and Savior how you came to know Him. Emphasize who He is and why He came.
10. Bonus question: How does this passage support the Pro-Life position that life begins at conception and should be protected?