

46 And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who **fear** him,

from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

1. Mary was used by God because...

1) She knew who God was: [Savior, Mighty, Holy, Merciful, Just,

committed—keeps His promises; can be trusted... more?]

2) She knew who she was: [servant, unworthy, humble, dependent]

3) She knew what we needed to be like: [We need to FEAR God]

Look up these verses and put into your own words:

Ecc 12:13 _____

Prov 9:10 _____

Rom 3:18 _____

2. How do grow into a greater understanding of a “healthy fear of God?”

Faithful gathering and study of the word of God-- "Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and **fear the LORD your God**, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land." (Deut. 31: 12, 13) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

Examine God's creation-- "When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with **fear**. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” (Exodus 20:18,19) "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Apply your heart to understanding-- "...turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding ...then you will understand the **fear** of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:2)

Recognize the wrath of God-- “There is no **fear** of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18 "For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay, and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30, 31)

Strong hatred towards sin-- "To **fear** the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech." (Proverbs 8:13)

Questions for follow up:

- 1) How did God’s truth **speak to you** this morning from His word?
- 2) What **adjustments** do you need to make in your life as a result?
- 3) When you think of God, what comes to your mind immediately?
- 4) What is it going to take to help you become more humble?
- 5) Have you had a too fearful or a too relaxed view of God? Why?
- 6) What steps do you need to take strengthen these ways (**F.E.A.R.S.**) of having a healthy fear of God in your daily life?