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Worshipers of God

(Luke 1:39-56)

Introduction

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

1. Question: How do we deal with the worries of life?

Why we worship: Jesus is Lord [Luke 1:39-46]

1. [1:39-45] Elizabeth & in-utero John worship.
 - a. [41a, 44] John, filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. 1:15), worships Jesus with joy.
 - b. [41b, 43] Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, worships Jesus as Lord.
 - c. The Holy Spirit: The 3rd person of the Trinity (one God expressed in 3 persons) who is sent to convict, comfort, counsel & empower people to follow Jesus.
 - d. Proper response to Jesus: He's Lord, & I worship Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. [1:46] Mary worships.
 - a. Pattern of worship: [30-37] God spoke, [38] Mary believed. [42-45] God blesses, [46] Mary worships.
3. Application: Our worship.
 - a. God speaks to us through Scriptures, our conscience & the Holy Spirit about Jesus; we respond to Him in love, trust, joy & obedience.
 - b. God blesses us with forgiveness, new life through His Spirit, new community through His people; we respond with worship under the power of the Holy Spirit.

How we worship: In truth about God from His Word [Luke 1:46-56]

1. Worship: Unceasingly giving ourselves to someone or something.
 - a. Mary worships God with biblical truths about God from His Word.
 - b. Mary worships God for who He is & what He's done.
2. Worship is the answer to worry.
 - a. Worry: Fearful about tomorrow based on circumstances.
 - b. Mary looks at her circumstances & worships God for who He is, what He's done for her: [1:46-47] God is Lord & Savior.
 - c. [1:48] God pays attention to the humble & gives dignity to them.
 - e. [1:49] God is mighty, personal & holy.
3. Application: Worship replaces worry. Keep track of the evidences of God's grace in your life, & worship/celebrate.
4. Worship is the answer to coveting.
 - a. Covet: Looking at God's grace/blessing in others' lives, and getting jealous.
 - b. Mary looks at others' circumstances & worships God for what He's done for other people / all people: [1:50-53] God is strong in our weakness, & against those who set themselves up as lord over others.
 - d. [1:54-55] God is faithful to fulfill His promises
5. Application: Worship replaces coveting. Worship God for what He's doing in others' lives.
 - a. It's important to be part of a church family, to see and celebrate what God is doing in others' lives.

Worship Jesus in Spirit and Truth [John 4:23-24]

6. Will God fix every worry in my life the way I want? No.
 - a. Until Jesus returns, we still live in a sin-cursed, fallen, broken world; but God is good, faithful, sovereign.
 - b. Circumstances shouldn't affect our view of who God is; who God is should affect how we view our circumstances. He's Lord, God & Savior.
7. True worship is spiritual.
 - a. God is a spiritual being. His Spirit connects our spirit to Him in worship.
 - b. Are you a worshiper of God, like John & Liz, worshiping filled with God's Spirit?
8. True worship is based on truth about God from His Word.
 - a. Are you a worshiper of God, like Mary, worshiping with truth from God's Word?
9. Worship is the answer to worrying and coveting.
 - a. Are you willing to surrender your worries & coveting, and replace them with worship of Jesus?

God lovers humbly serve Jesus [Luke 1:26-38]

1. [1:26-33] Mary
 - a. Peasant girl; probably illiterate; teenager between ages 12-16 [age of betrothal].
 - b. [28] She is a recipient of God's grace/favor through Jesus, just like everyone else.
 - c. We love God because we are recipients of unearned, undeserved love & grace through Jesus, just like Mary.
 - d. Same pattern as Zech: [28] Angel appears; [29] Mary is troubled; [30] angel comforts: "Do not be afraid."
2. [1:34-38] Mary's question: "How will this be?"
 - a. Not unbelief, but: "I believe that can happen; how's it going to work?"
 - b. [35-37] Through the power of God's Spirit; nothing is impossible with God!
 - c. [38] Mary's legendary response: "Behold, I am the Lord's servant; may it be to me as you have said."
 - d. She had a script for her life, but God gave her a new script, & she responds to humbly serve Jesus.
3. Application: Are you a lover of God who seeks, trusts, follows & serves God's script for your life?

Part of a great story

1. Like Theo, Zech, Liz & Mary, we all have a vital part to play in God's great redemption story for people through Jesus.
 - a. Divine moment of being pursued by Jesus & joining His family.
 - b. Divine prayers answered by Jesus to see, celebrate & testify to His goodness.
 - c. Divine appointments to impact others' lives for Jesus.
 - d. Are you willing to choose to respond in faith to that?
2. What kind of lover of God are? Which resonates with you? What choices do you need to make?
 - a. Like Theophilus, choose to seek the truth about Jesus?
 - b. Like Zechariah & Elizabeth, choose to patiently trust & wait for Jesus to answer a prayer?
 - c. Like Mary, choose to humbly love & serve Jesus?