

**#2 SOME PERSONAL APPLICATIONS
FROM THE CHRISTMAS STORY
(Luke 1:39-80)**

Notice...

I. THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP FOR WHAT GOD WAS DOING (46-55)

A. What God was doing was miraculous

That Elisabeth should have a son in her old age was a miraculous and wonderful thing. To be visited by angels was a miraculous thing. For Mary to be called upon to be the mother of the Messiah was a miraculous thing. For the babe to leap for joy in Elisabeth's womb was miraculous but that the Son of God would come through a virgin birth surpassed all these things. What a miracle!

B. What God was doing was moving

In light of all these things Mary couldn't keep silent. She began to magnify the Lord in praise and worship.

God may not be doing miracles at this time in our lives but God is doing great things for us. Therefore we should recognize this fact and as we witness His blessing we should take time to praise and worship the Lord.

This is what Abraham's servant, Eliezer, did when God led him to a bride for Isaac (Gen. 24:26-27). This is what Samuel did when God gave Israel victory over the Philistines (I Sam. 7:12). And this is what Zacharias did (Luke 1:67-79).

II. THE BLESSING WHICH COMES FROM OBEDIENCE (57-64)

A. Our obedience is something which is tested by the Lord. We find God tested Abraham's obedience in offering his son (Gen. 22:2). God tested a certain man of God in Jeroboam's day (I Kings 13). And so were Zacharias and Elisabeth tested. What would they name their son?

B. Our obedience is more important to God than anything else.

This was brought out by Samuel the prophet to King Saul when he disobeyed the Lord (Isaiah 15:22,23).

C. Our obedience brings blessing

We find as Zacharias wrote the name John in obedience to what God had said his tongue was loosed and his speech restored (Luke 1:63,64).

The Bible is replete with numerous examples of this fact that obedience brings blessing.

III. THE MATTER OF LAYING UP GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS (66)

- A. Laying up God's Word is to receive it, to remember it, to rehearse it, and to reflect upon it.

The Bible mentions two kinds of hearers in James 1:22-25. Those who hear, but do not obey it, do not lay up God's Word in their hearts.

Mary laid up God's Word in her heart (Lk 2:19).

- B. Laying up God's Word is to respond righteously when put to the test.

This truth is demonstrated in Daniel's life (Dan. 1:8; 6:10).

Doing wrong is the case when people do not lay up God's Word in their hearts (Mal. 2:2).