

December 10, 2023

This Christmas: Finding Favour

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

Big Idea: This Christmas we find favour by recognizing the places where Jesus is active and present.

The Challenge: Our understanding of favour is often based upon wealth, comfort, or ease. But this is not the case. Instead, what does it mean to be favoured or blessed by God? It means recognizing God's presence and taking action in humility.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message:

I pray that we would receive the favour of God, not as an end, but to experience more of God's work in our lives and community of faith.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Finding Favour in Community vs. 39-45

- What does it mean to be "blessed" or "favoured" by God? What does it not mean?
- What does Elizabeth say about Mary and her baby? Pick out 4-5 things.
- How does Elizabeth's insights clarify for Mary who Jesus is and her place in the story?
- Mary and Elizabeth recount and retell God's presence and activity in their lives and story in community. What role does community play in following Jesus? Why is it important to have other's insight to God's presence and activity in your life?

2. Finding Favour in God's Character vs. 46-49

- Mary breaks out into song after her interaction with Elizabeth and starts the song with personal reflection. She calls Jesus "Saviour" in her song. What is this saying about Mary's recognition of her own need and the identity of Jesus?
- Mary notes that God has been mindful of her as well that he is holy. Other ways to say this is that God is transcendent (holy other) and immanent (closer to you than yourself). What emotion does this reality evoke in you?
- What happens if we lose the awe and wonder of God's character (holy) and love (closeness)?

3. Finding Favour in God's Story vs. 50-55

- Mary notes the sociological impact of Jesus as proud rulers are brought down and humble people are raised up. What role does humility play in our walk with Jesus?