

INTRO/WELCOME

- Andy Riemersma - Dual role: Awaken Campus Coordinator and Student Ministry Pastor for Trinity NEI
- But God series
- Today: Mary's song - Luke 1

PRAY

CONTEXT

- 400 years of silence - God was not revealing anything new.
 - logos and rhema
- Background on Mary
 - between 13-16 years old
 - poor, uneducated, under the radar woman, faithfully serving God with her soon to be husband, Joseph.
- Mary receives a prophecy that she will give birth to the coming Messiah
 - Her whole life she is told someone is coming
 - This is a crazy encounter
 - You gotta wonder, "is this even real?" Is something like this really taking place?

- Mary & Elizabeth (cousins)
 - Elizabeth - John the Baptist
 - Mary - Jesus

- Coronavirus temptations:
 - 1) Fear
 - 2) Apathy
 - 3) Overworked & Under Appreciated

- Regardless of where you are at:
 - turn to the person next to you, tell them, "The Lord sees you"

Read Luke 1:46-56

Story of Josh & I at cedar point

- 1) **We can feel fear and not be controlled by fear**
 - Maybe in this season, you feel paralyzed by fear. By the news, by your phone, by this quarantine. You just feel FEAR. I want to speak to you

 - Let's put ourselves in Mary's shoes

- Luke 1:29-30
 - (Mary was “greatly troubled”, and the angel told her not to fear”)

- In that day's society, here are the things that could've been running through Mary's mind:
 - She could be killed if she birthed the coming Messiah:
 - Joseph, her soon to be husband, could leave her, assuming she was unfaithful to him
 - She could be ostracized from her family and her community because it would look like she lost her virginity

- In spite of all of this, Mary feels the fear, and refuses to be controlled by the fear.
 - Mary did not let fear de-rail her God given destiny and calling.

- Someone watching has felt the calling and stirring of the Lord, but FEAR is keeping you back.

- Restate: We can feel fear and not be controlled by fear

- 2) **God is not looking for the eloquent, He is looking for the available.**
 - Maybe in this season you have taken an apathetic posture. Your temptation is to throw your hands up and say, “Why should I even try?” Why should I even obey the Lord? What’s the point of trying right now in anything when the world is in such disarray? I want to speak to you.

 - Luke 1:29-30
 - Mary is “highly favored” in the eyes of the Lord.

 - God could’ve chosen any way to come to earth, yet He chose a young, teenage, uneducated, poor girl.
 - Mary was 1) poor & 2) a woman
 - Both of these would consider her to be unworthy, unimportant, and lower than others in the current society.

- As broken humans, we have confused Favor and Favoritism
 - God's Favor: undeserved grace and blessing
 - Favoritism: creating hierarchy and classification of people based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, education, etc.

- We know God shows no favoritism.
 - The definer of Mary's worth was not her socioeconomic status, but it was God's unshakable, divinely inspired identity.
 - God considered Mary trustworthy to handle this type of crazy encounter because she had shown time and time again before all of this that she was "available" meditating on His Word, and spending time in prayer.

- Restate: God is not looking for the eloquent, He is looking for the available.

- Right now: sports, concerts, movies, trips, are ALL cancelled.
 - This is a moment in history that we may never see again in our lifetime.

- This is THE TIME to cultivate a deep relationship with God in His presence.
- And what do we do? We fill it with more busyness.
- That's exactly what Satan wants us to do.

- In this moment of history, the Lord is wanting to speak extremely clear to His people. He wants to reveal His mysteries. He wants to give us gems in the secret place as we immerse ourselves in His presence. But, this will only happen for those who have ears to hear. This will only happen for those who have eyes to see.

- 2 Chronicles 16:9: **9** For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him

- Remember, there were 400 years of silence
 - OT —> NT

- In the same way, the Lord wants to break the silence with a whisper, but you have to be close enough to hear.

- Restate: God is not looking for the eloquent, He is looking for the available.
- 3) **What's stored up in the secret times comes out in the tough times.**
 - Maybe in this season, you feel anger rising up in you, feeling like God has slighted you. Maybe you feel like God has given you a promise that didn't go the way you expected. You lost a job. Your internship got cancelled. Your trip overseas got delayed. Your temptation is to lose your mind right now. I want to speak to you.
 - Come back to the text: verses 46-47
 - What was Mary's response?
 - She immediately poured out Scripture out of her mouth like it was running water.
 - What Mary meditated on day and night in her prayer closet came out in a time of crisis.
 - Praise was her weapon, it was like second nature to her

(To take this a step further)

- Come back to the text: verses 54-55

- It was evident Mary knew God's people had been through much worse

- What comes out of you when the pressure of life squeezes you?
 - Is it anger?
 - Is it anxiety?
 - Is it cynicism?
 - Is it doubt?

- Restate: What's stored up in the secret times comes out in the tough times.

- **4) Private obedience never goes unnoticed by the eyes of the King**
 - Maybe in this season, you feel overlooked right now. Maybe you have gotten twice as busy when Coronavirus hit. You're a single mom at home, and nobody sees the work you are doing just to make ends meet for your kids and put food on the table. You're a business man and you feel like no one appreciates and sees your hard work 9-5, I want to speak to you.

- Come back to the text: verses 47-48

- Verse 48: "For He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant"
 - Mary's security was anchored in intimacy with God, over her image to the world.
 - Mary was content with the applause of the King, over the applause of man.

- "The Lord sees you".

- Private obedience never goes unnoticed by the eyes of the King.
 - God sees what is done in secret

- Matthew 6:17-18
 - **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- Someone that is watching right now, you are trying to gain public approval for private obedience.
 - Stop striving

- “The Lord sees you”

- Restate: Private obedience never goes unnoticed by the eyes of the King

Conclusion: Gospel

- Eve & Mary parallel
 - Going all the way back to the fall - Adam & Eve sin.
 - a heart that is wrong before God Works to hide, but a heart that is right before God rejoices to be seen,
 - Eve works to hide, Mary rejoices to be seen

- The essence of the Gospel is this: to be fully known, fully seen and fully loved.
 - You are chosen, wanted, seen, fully known, and fully loved.

- “The Lord sees you”

- SALVATION
- BELIEVERS