



Comfort & Joy: Mary's Song

Luke 1:39-56

Ray Cortese, December 15 & 16, 2018



December is
INVITE
month.
Who will you
invite?

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever been part of a wild celebration? Has anything ever happened to you that caused you to jump up and down for joy?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

MARY'S SONG: THE CATALYST

- 3 *It's in community that we get Jesus.* How would your experience of Christianity be different if you were alone on a deserted island?
- 4 Ray exhorted older women to help and affirm younger women (the same could be said of men). Have you ever been the giver or the recipient in such a relationship?

- 5 *It's in community that we get confirmation of God's direction.* What is dangerous with the argument, "God told me to..."? Have you ever sought the council of your church family before making an important life decision?

MARY'S SONG: THE PASSION

- 6 Why did Dietrich Bonhoeffer say that prison was a perfect place for him to be on Christmas?
- 7 Do you view yourself as a passionate worshiper of God? Have you ever had a moment in worship where you said to yourself, "This is what I was made for!"?

MARY'S SONG: THE CONTENT

- 8 Discuss the following quote: "Christmas is the end of thinking that you are better than anyone."
- 9 Ray spoke about buying his children lottery scratchers for their stockings. What was the point of that illustration?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?