

Luke 1:39-56 Lesson 4 Handout

Tony Snow, former press secretary for President George W. Bush, has been battling cancer, off and on, since early 2005. When asked what spiritual lessons he has learned from his battle, he replied: "We want lives of simple, predictable ease—smooth, even trails as far as the eye can see—but God likes to go off-road."

Tony Snow, "The Up Side," Guideposts (January 2008), p. 20; submitted by Ted DeHass, Bedford, Iowa

Luke 1:38 (ESV)

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

But today I want to focus on another journey that Mary made, an internal journey that involved significant change of heart for this teenage girl who was about to give birth to the Chosen One. It's a journey of trust. It's about the emotional distance she traveled after finding out that her life's plan was about to be forever changed.

Her journey is also our journey, because many of us have found out that the life we had planned to live is not the life we are living. Pastor Ed Rowell – Colorado

A businessman asked me if I would speak to his staff, and I readily accepted. One of his staff asked me if we could talk privately. She said, "Ian, when I was 22, I was in a serious car accident, and my boyfriend was killed. I have gone through a lot of surgery and am now doing well. When that happened, I lost my faith."

What do you say to someone like that? Well, I prayed and I said, as kindly as I could, "You know, when they built the Queen Mary, the Queen Elizabeth, and the QE2, they did not test them in dry dock. They didn't leave them in dry dock and get big hoses on them to see if they would leak. They got those ships out into the open ocean to put them through sea trials. These trials were not intended to sink the ship. These trials were to prove that the ship was seaworthy. The only way you can know whether your faith is real or not is when the pressures of life come, when you go through trials. Then you know if you are seaworthy or not. Can I ask you honestly, did you lose your faith or did you find you had none?"

She said, "Ian, I guess you are right, I had none."

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Ian Leitch, Life Before Death! A Restored, Regenerated, and Renewed Life (Green Acres Press, 2007); submitted by Marshall Shelley, chief editor, Leadership journal

Luke 1:39–45 (AMP)

³⁹And at that time Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country to a town of Judah, ⁴⁰And she went to the house of Zachariah and, entering it, saluted Elizabeth.

⁴¹And it occurred that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Judges 3:10 (AMP)

¹⁰The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel...

Judges 11:29 (AMP)

²⁹Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah...

1 Samuel 10:10 (AMP)

¹⁰When they came to the hill [Gibeah], behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came mightily upon him, and he spoke under divine inspiration among them.

John 14:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (AMP)

¹⁹Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own,

Romans 8:9 (AMP)

⁹But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].

Luke 1:42 And she cried out with a loud cry, and then exclaimed, Blessed (favored of God) above all other women are you! And blessed (favored of God) is the Fruit of your womb!

43 And how [have I deserved that this honor should] be granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV)

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Luke 1:44 For behold, the instant the sound of your salutation reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45 And blessed (happy, to be envied) is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were spoken to her from the Lord.

Luke 1:46–56 (AMP)

46 And Mary said, My soul magnifies and extols the Lord,

47 And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 For He has looked upon the low station and humiliation of His handmaiden. For behold, from now on all

generations [of all ages] will call me blessed and declare me happy and to be envied!

⁴⁹For He Who is almighty has done great things for me—and holy is His name [to be venerated in His purity, majesty and glory]!

⁵⁰And His mercy (His compassion and kindness toward the miserable and afflicted) is on those who fear Him with godly reverence, from generation to generation and age to age.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (AMP)

⁴⁰Therefore you shall keep His statutes and His commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may prolong your days in the land which the Lord your God gives you forever.

Luke 1:51 He has shown strength and made might with His arm; He has scattered the proud and haughty in and by the imagination and purpose and designs of their hearts.

⁵²He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree.

⁵³He has filled and satisfied the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty-handed [without a gift].

⁵⁴He has laid hold on His servant Israel [to help him, to espouse his cause], in remembrance of His mercy,

⁵⁵Even as He promised to our forefathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

1 Samuel 2:1–5 (AMP)

¹HANNAH PRAYED, and said, My heart exults and triumphs in the Lord; my horn (my strength) is lifted up in the Lord. My mouth is no longer silent, for it is opened wide over my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation.

²There is none holy like the Lord, there is none besides You; there is no Rock like our God.

³Talk no more so very proudly; let not arrogance go forth from your mouth, for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children languishes and is forlorn.

Hannah (1 Samuel 2)	Mary (Luke 1)
v. 1 My heart exalts in the Lord; I rejoice in thy salvation.	v. 46f. My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
v. 2 There is none holy like the Lord.	v. 49 Holy is his name.
v. 4 The bows of the mighty are broken but the feeble gird on strength.	v. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree.
v. 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.	v. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her [Elizabeth] for about three months and [then] returned to her [own] home.