

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention



December 22, 2016

Scripture

Luke 1:46-56

Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.”
Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months
and then returned to her home.

Our Scripture Reflection

A local doctor who recently returned from a medical mission trip to the impoverished nation of Haiti described the horrible poverty and living conditions he witnessed. However, there was one thing he saw that just amazed him: The people were for the most part happy. When asked by a news reporter how this could be, he responded simply, "they appreciate one another, family and friends are close to each other." And here in the land of the free and the home of the brave, 60 per cent of the population is on anti-depressant/ anti-anxiety medications. Why? Perhaps we fail to appreciate the simple gifts most of which are so close to us or a phone call away. Not so with Mary. She loved her cousin Elizabeth and even more loved her God. She surrendered her life to Him and because of that, we have Jesus.

Food for your Journey

Faith is the willingness to receive whatever [God] wants to give, or the willingness not to have what he does not want to give. From the greatest of all gifts (salvation in Christ) to the material blessings of any ordinary day (hot water, a pair of legs that work, a cup of coffee, a job to do and the strength to do it), every good gift comes down from the Father of Lights. Every one of them is to be received gladly and with thanks. Sometimes we want things we were not meant to have. Because he loves us, the Father says no. Faith is willing not to have what God is not willing to give. Furthermore, faith does not insist on an explanation. It is enough to know his promise that he will give what is good; he knows so much more about that than we do.

—Elisabeth Elliot.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, All I need is Your tremendous love for me. Only Your love will bring me lasting peace and true happiness. Amen.

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