12/20/15 A Different Song This Christmas

Introduction

* Movie Star Wars The Force Awakens
  + Millions of people will see it
  + Discussion at school of famous movies that coworker hasn't seen
    - Hoosiers
    - Gladiator
    - Caddy Shack
    - Was appalled
  + What famous Christmas movies people of Ebenezer haven't seen
    - It's a Wonderful Life (Every time a bell rings an angel gets its wings)
    - Elf
    - The Santa Clause
    - Grinch (old) (new)
    - Polar Express
    - Die Hard
    - Home Alone
    - A Christmas Carol (Scrooge)
    - Miracle on 34th Street
    - A Christmas Vacation
* In our series "Different Kind of Christmas"
* Looking at unusual aspects of the Christmas Story
  + Dare to be Different= John the Baptist, To be different this Christmas= pray and talk with others that we normally wouldn't talk to
  + A Different kind of King
    - Hope=Resurrection
    - Humble=meek, tamed animal still has strength and power
    - Peace= Jesus' peace
    - King of Freedom= From Sin and Fear
    - King of Salvation= From Enemies and Death
* Continuing that today with A Different Song

Luke 1: 39-56 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

* Mary
  + This 14 year old girl
  + With child
    - Not just any child
    - The messiah
    - King of Kings, Lord of Lords
* Song
  + The hymn of Mary, commonly called the Magnificat
  + "The Virgin's Hymn"
* Look at the four verses/divisions of the song and what can we learn from them?Great things

1. v. 46b-48  “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;   
   * Prayer
     + Highest kind of prayer= ask nothing
     + Adoration and thankfulness
   * Soul
     + the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our soul, heart; rendered in the Bible)
     + Jesus/Father looks at the heart
   * Blessed
     + Mother of Jesus
     + Catholic Church
   * How this Christmas? For us?
     + Our song= Prayer that asks nothing
     + Comes from the heart
     + We are blessed to be a follower of Christ
2. v. 49-50 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.   
   * Power
     + Omnipotent= All powerful
     + Done great things for me
       - Our testimony
       - Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
   * Holiness
     + God is holy
     + One of the strangest things to me
       - OT altars= Lord didn't want them to have steps
       - So nakedness wouldn't be exposed on it
       - Because it was to be holy
     + That is how holy he is
       - 1 Peter 1:16 quoting Leviticus 11:45, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
   * Mercy
     + Fear
       - phobeó (fob-eh'-o)- Where we get our English word phobia
       - Dread/Afraid, here however it means reverence or Awe
     + Awe of God
       - Circled in my Bible
       - The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom/knowledge (mentioned many times in Psalms and Proverbs)
     + of what he has done
   * Mercy v.54
     + Mercy= not getting what you deserve
     + Bible tells us the "wages of sin is death"
     + That is what we deserve
     + Through the gift of Jesus Christ we are granted mercy
     + John 3:16
   * How this Christmas? For us?  
     + Remember his power= Done great things for us
     + Holy= He is holy, you shall be holy
     + Mercy= Healthy fear, Awe, grateful for not getting what we deserve
3. v. 51-53 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
   * Scattered Proud  
     + The Bible=Pride comes before the fall
     + Pride seems to be the root of all sin
     + Do it on my own
   * Brought down mighty
     + Humble exalted
     + First shall become last, vice versa
   * Filled the hungry  
     + Sermon on the mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righeteousness, for they shall be filled"
     + Matt. 25: 34-40 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and yougave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them,‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,you did it to me.’
   * How this Christmas? For us?
     + Without Pride
     + Welcome strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick and in prison, Feed the hungry
       - Able to help out a family this week
       - Someone gave me $100 to give to someone else
       - Two people we knew= Took in their neice and nephew b/c the children's parents are in jail and going to jail, already had 6 kids, struggling, needed diapers etc., Baby needs a liver transplant  
         * Not me but Monica and how I'm lucky to be in ministry with her
         * Thankful for the gift of someone else
4. v. 54-55 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”   
   * End of the song
   * Gratitude
     + Attitude of Gratitude
   * Faithfulness
     + Remember the Lord's mercy
     + Remember, remember
       - OT
       - Lord's supper
   * Nations will be blessed
     + Lord's promise to Abraham
   * How this Christmas? For us?
     + Attitude of Gratitude
     + Remember the Faithfulness of the Lord

Closing

Our Christmas Song this Christmas!

* Prayer that asks nothing and comes from the heart
* Done great things for us, Mercy= not getting what we deserve, Fear=Healthy, Awe
* Welcome strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick and in prison, Feed the hungry
* Attitude of Gratitude, Remember, Remember, Remember