

*Saturday, December 25, 2004*

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:52-53*

*Text for Today: He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.*

Mary and Elizabeth, both pregnant, meet in the first chapter of Luke's gospel and Mary shares "the magnificat" including verses 52 and 53: "he has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away." Advent is filled with unexpected reversals. By surprising us, unexpected reversals remind us that we are not omniscient and are not God. What greater unexpected reversal could God provide than sending his son, the baby Jesus, to be born into the world. God can change everything through a single baby. Who but God could imagine such a transforming miracle?

Think about pregnant Mary and how necessary it was for her to believe for Christ to be born. Was Mary dreaming of a miracle when she thought of her coming child? Miracles happen. Why wouldn't she be expecting a miracle? Why shouldn't we expect a miracle?

Christmas reminds us that miracles happen and you can be full of joy knowing miracles happen when you believe. Mary believed. We believe. The greatest miracle of all happened. A child is born, a babe in arms, in loving arms, in God's arms, in your arms, in my arms...so celebrate, sing of the amazing unexpected surprises God has in store for us. Sing. Dance. Share in the gift of God. Miracles happen for you and me and all of us when we believe like Mary, like Jesus, like God.

What was Mary's part in this unexpected miracle? What is your part in receiving the unexpected gifts of God? Your belief, your expectation helps God deliver miracles into this world. Expect that God can deliver miracles.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we celebrate this Christmas season let us remember to expect miracles. Throughout this Advent season, fill us with the expectation that you can transform everything, especially us. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest miracle of all – your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Randy Brooks*

