

We need Joy at Christmas 在聖誕節我們需要的喜樂

Luke 路加福音1:26-56

26 到了第六個月，天使加百列奉上帝的差遣往加利利的一座城去，這城名叫拿撒勒，27 到一個童女那裏，她已經許配大衛家的一個人，名叫約瑟；童女的名字叫馬利亞。28 天使進去，對她說：「蒙大恩的女子，你好，主和你同在！」

29 馬利亞因這話就很驚慌，又反覆思考這樣問候是甚麼意思。

30 天使對她說：「馬利亞，不要怕，你在上帝面前已經蒙恩了。31 你要懷孕生子，要給他起名叫耶穌。32 他將要為大，稱為至高者的兒子；主上帝要把他祖先大衛的王位給他。33 他要作雅各家的王，直到永遠；他的國沒有窮盡。」

34 馬利亞對天使說：「我沒有出嫁，怎麼會有這事呢？」35 天使回答她說：「聖靈要臨到你身上；至高者的能力要庇蔭你，因此，那要出生的聖者要稱為上帝的兒子。36 況且，你的親戚伊利莎白，就是那素來稱為不生育的，在年老的時候也懷了男胎，現在懷孕六個月了。37 因為，出於上帝的話，沒有一句不帶能力的。」38 馬利亞說：「我是主的使女，願意照你的話實現在我身上。」於是天使離開她去了。

39 在那些日子，馬利亞起身，急忙前往山區，來到猶大的一座城，40 進了撒迦利亞的家，向伊利莎白問安。41 伊利莎白一聽到馬利亞問安，所懷的胎就在腹裏跳動。伊利莎白被聖靈充滿，42 高聲喊著說：「你在婦女中是有福的！你所懷的胎也是有福的！43 我主的母親到我這裏來，為何這事臨到我呢？44 因為你問安的聲音一入我耳，我腹裏的胎就歡喜跳動。45 這相信的女子是有福的！因為主對她所說的話都要應驗。」

46 馬利亞說：「我心尊主為大；47 我靈以上帝我的救主為樂；48 因為他顧念他使女的卑微；從今以後，萬代要稱我有福。49 因為那有權能的為我做了大事；他的名是聖的。50 他憐憫敬畏他的人，直到世世代代。51 他用膀臂施展大能；他趕散心裏妄想的狂傲人。52 他叫有權柄的失位，叫卑賤的升高。53 他叫飢餓的飽餐美食，叫富足的空手回去。54 他扶助了他的僕人以色列，不忘記施憐憫，55 正如他對我們的列祖說過，『憐憫亞伯拉罕和他的後裔，直到永遠。』」

56 馬利亞和伊利莎白同住，約有三個月，然後回家去了。

I heard a figure the other day that shocked me. Around \$1600 is spent on each person at Christmas. That's an incredible amount of money! I wonder if it's because we're insecure. We're worried about what people think, and so we spend lots of money to change people's perception.

幾天前我聽到一個讓我震驚的數字。每個人在聖誕節大約花費1600元。那可真是一大筆錢！我不知道是不是因為我們大多數都缺乏自信心。我們擔心他人對我們的想法，所以我們花很多錢來改變他們的看法。

'I have to be known as the generous Uncle. I need my children to love me, so here's all the presents you have asked for. Haven't spent much time with my husband or wife lately, let me spend money on you instead.'

‘我必須被認為是慷慨的叔叔。我需要我的孩子愛我，所以我跟足所有的清單預備他人所要求的禮物。最近沒有花太多時間陪我的丈夫或妻子，讓我把錢花在你身上作補償。’

There is this common thread of insecurity and anxiety about where we stand with other people. Am I really loved and appreciated? If my husband buys me the right gift, then I'll know he actually listens to all the hints that I have been dropping for the last 6 months. Don't worry Alisa, I think I've heard you. We'll see on Christmas morning!

在於我們與其他人的關係上，有一種共同的不安全感和焦慮。我真的被愛和感激。如果我丈夫給我買了我想要的禮物，那麼我才會知道他實際上聽了我過去6個月來一直放出的所有暗示。別擔心，艾莉莎，我想我已經聽到了你。我們在聖誕節早上看看！

Is it possible that we do the same thing with God? That we are striving to get his love and acceptance? Instead of buying gifts for God we do things out of a feeling of insecurity where we stand.

我們有可能對上帝做同樣的事情嗎？我們正在努力得到他的愛和接受？我們不是為上帝買禮物，而是出於對自己與上帝的關係缺乏自信而做事。

Today, the good news of the bible is that God has a wonderful present for us. One that cuts to the feeling of insecurity before God.

今天，聖經的好消息是上帝有一份美妙的禮物給我們。一份處理我們在上帝面前缺乏自信的禮物。

And we see it in the song that Mary sang.

我們在馬利亞的尊主頌裡看到了這一點。

As we've seen with our kids. Mary wasn't in the highest position. She wasn't a queen or a princess. She wasn't a rich influencer mum on Instagram with a million followers. She was a young, soon to be married girl. She was from a backwater town called Nazareth in Galilee. She was a no one.

正如我們和孩子們一起看到的，馬利亞不是身處高尙位置。她不是女王或公主。她不是Instagram上一個有一百萬追隨者的富有影響力的媽媽。她很年輕，很快就要結婚了。她來自加利利一個叫拿撒勒的無名小鎮。她什麼都不是。

Yet God chose her to be the mother of Jesus.

然而，上帝選擇她做耶穌的母親。

We've seen how Mary and Elizabeth were joyful when they came together, and Mary sings a song, rejoicing in God.

我們已經看到當馬利亞探訪伊利莎白時多麼的快樂，馬利亞唱出一首尊主頌，在歡欣中歌頌上帝。

“My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

馬利亞說：「我心尊主為大；47我靈以上帝我的救主為樂；48因為他顧念他使女的卑微；從今以後，萬代要稱我有福。

God has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. What a wonderful reversal of the order of humanity. Usually we are only aware of those who are rich and famous, that we can get something from. But here God is aware, and he cares for the lowest in society.

神一直注意他的僕人的卑微狀態。這是對於人類秩序的多麼奇妙的逆轉。通常我們只注意那些我們可以從他們身上得到一些東西的富人和有名的人。但這裡上帝在注意，他關心社會的低下層。

Mary keeps singing.

馬利亞繼續歌頌。

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

49因為那有權能的為我做了大事；他的名是聖的。50他憐憫敬畏他的人，直到世世代代。51他用膀臂施展大能；他趕散心裏妄想的狂傲人。

The Mighty One, God, he does great to the lowest. He honours Mary and he lifts her up. Those who are proud and arrogant and don't realise their need before God are scattered. God not only lifts up the lowly, but those who abuse the poor and humble are pushed away.

那有權能的，上帝，為低微的做了大事。他尊重馬利亞，把她升高。那些心裏妄想的狂傲，沒有意識到他們需要上帝的人被驅散。上帝不僅把卑微的人升高，而那些虐待窮人和卑微的都被趕走。

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

52他叫有權柄的失位，叫卑賤的升高。

God has totally flipped the way we expect people to operate. In the world the rich get richer and seem to never be accountable. But God knows the acts of all people. People might feel like they've been forgotten but God never forgets.

上帝完全顛覆了我們對其他人的運作方式的預期。在富人越來越富有，似乎永遠從不需負責任的世界中，上帝知道所有的人的行為。人們可能覺得自己被遺忘了，但上帝永遠不會忘記。

At Christmas we can be tempted to think that we need to impress people with the best gifts, and the best parties. Hoping that the things that we do will get their love and acceptance.

在聖誕節，我們可能會想，我們需要用最好的禮物，最好的派對來打動他人。希望藉著我們做的事情去得到他們的愛和接受。

It would be terrible if we operated in the same way with God. We can feel insecure about our standing with God. Unsure of how he sees us.

如果我們以同樣的方式對神，那將是十分可怕。我們可能對我們與神的關係感到缺乏自信。不確定他怎麼看我們。

The good news of Christmas is that we can sing this song of Mary's with joy just like she did. Because God is mindful of us.

聖誕節的好消息是，我們可以像馬利亞一樣歡樂地唱她的這首尊主頌。因為上帝顧念我們。

We don't need an angel to speak to us. We don't need to get pregnant in a virgin conception to know that God is mindful of us. He offers us the highest position through his son Jesus. The Jesus, born as a baby, lived a perfect and sinless life, but died on a cross. And yet he was raised 3 days later.

我們不需要天使來跟我們說話。我們不需要以童女懷孕來知道上帝顧念我們。藉著他的兒子耶穌上帝給我們最高的位置。耶穌，生作嬰孩，過著完美而無罪的生活，卻死在十字架上。然而，他三天後被復活。

Because of what Jesus has accomplished, God now offers us to be his children. The highest position of all. God's full acceptance and love for us.

由於耶穌所成就的，神現在賜給我們做他的兒女。升到最高位置。上帝完全接受和愛我們。

This is such good news because we don't need to be anxious. We don't need to be worried about where we stand with God. It is secure in Jesus.

這是一個好消息，因為我們不再需要焦慮。我們不再需要擔心我們與神的關係。在耶穌裡是安全穩妥。

We don't need to hedge our bets, tick the box of doing things at Christmas time to try and secure God's love and acceptance. Because God is already mindful of you. He knows you, and he loves you.

我們不需要對沖我們的賭注，在聖誕節的時候在需要做的事情的清單上打勾，試圖確保上帝的愛和接受。因為上帝已經顧念著你。他認識知道你，他愛你。

You don't need to work hard to get him to love you or accept you. We don't operate from a position of anxiety and fear. But instead, we have a God who has shown his love to us, so that we can rejoice like Mary!

不需要努力工作去讓他愛你或接受你。我們不是從焦慮和恐懼的立場來運作的。相反地，我們有一個向我們展示了他的愛的上帝，所以我們可以像馬利亞一樣歡欣！

My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

「我心尊主為大；47我靈以上帝我的救主為樂；48因為他顧念他使女的卑微；

This position before God is secure. It was nailed firm on the cross. In a world that brings joys, but also many insecurities about the future, this is the best joy. It is secure. It takes away fear and anxiety. And the cost for it has been paid.

這個在上帝面前的地位是安穩的。已牢牢地被釘在十字架上。在一個帶來歡樂，但也對未來充滿不安的世界裡，這是最好的快樂。是安穩不變的。把恐懼和焦慮帶走。並且需要的代價已經付了。

I have 3 kids. Isaac who is 7, Tamara who is 5, and Micah who is 2. Micah has always loved climbing. He sees what his older 2 siblings do and copies them. And he climbs much higher than his brother or sister did at their age, partly because he's copying them. But also because he knows that I'm below. I love that moment when he is up high, and he is about to launch himself off. Well, I love it when I know he's about to jump. It's a moment of total joy. Because he trusts that I will catch him. He is secure both at the height and in the air because he knows that I'll catch him below.

我有3個孩子，以撒7歲，塔瑪拉5歲，彌迦2歲。彌迦一直喜歡往上爬。他看到他的兩個兄姐做什麼便會複製模仿他們。他比他哥哥姐姐在同他的年齡時爬得更要高，部分原因是因為他模仿了他們。但也因為他知道我在下面。我喜歡當他高高在上將要放手的那一刻。嗯，我喜歡他即將跳下的那一刻。這是一個完全喜悅的時刻。因為他相信我會接著他，無論是高高在上還是在空中，他都是滿有信心，因為他知道我會下面接著他。

We might be living a life that feels like we're about to fall off a cliff, or that we're falling, and this can bring all kinds of anxieties and fears.

我們可能過著一種感覺即將從懸崖上掉下來的生活，或者我們正在失敗中，這會帶來各種各樣的焦慮和恐懼。

But when we know that God is mindful of us, that he loves us and acceptance. It means that we can have joy – because there is a good God who has made us secure in Jesus.

但當我們知道上帝正在顧念我們，他愛我們和接受我們的時候。意味著我們可以有喜樂，因為美好的上帝使我們在耶穌裡安穩。