

Mary Mother of Jesus Sunday Year C
Luke 1:46-55
Sermon for Advent LC
August 15th, 2010

“Do you Love God? Really?”

Dear sisters and brothers, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Do you love God? That's a pretty big question, and perhaps a bit loaded but I wanted to throw it out there anyway for you to consider. The easy response would be yes, I love God- and the logical conclusion that I could make is that you love God at least a little because well you are here this morning. But do you REALLY love God? And if the answer is yes, I really love God then the follow up question I have for you is why do you really love God? And one more question to set the stage for today- if you really love God and you have your reasons for loving your God- does anyone know that you love your God? Is anyone aware that you have this love for this God who has done so much for you? The reason I want you to think a bit about those questions is that I believe we need to a better job in our love for our God as a whole. I think of many things that we love- sports, people, money, success, teams, whatever- and people know that we love those things by the way we live- what we say, what we do- and all too often I think we miss the mark when it comes to the Love that we have from God and hopefully for God- God loves you, yes? Do you love God in all that you are and all that you do?

That question rattled around in my head this week as I read and reread and re-re-read the Gospel for today. It's one of those readings that we hear quite often- and also one that we might know well because we sing it when we do our Holden Evening prayer during Lent. The Gospel is Mary's response to the news that she will have a child named Jesus- the savior of the world being born to her. It's known as the Magnificat- Mary's honest and open expression of how much she loves her Lord and her God. In this beautiful verse, you can almost hear Mary's voice rising above the noise of the world, as she proclaims all that God is about. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" she sings and then goes on to list all that God has done and will do. Our God, the one who blessed Mary to be the mother of Jesus comes into the world to change the world- to alter the way the World operates- the humble will be exalted, the hungry will be filled, the proud will be scattered- all will know grace and mercy because of this God through this Jesus- and Mary can't keep from singing- she loves her God and in this art form of a song we see the depth of her love for our God. She loves God- because God loved her first, she loves God because God is love, she loves God because God will bring justice to light, mercy for all, grace to be tasted and she wants the world to know. Her soul and her voice proclaim the good God that has done this- what does your soul, your voice, your Spirit proclaim? Does the world know from you about this God that you say you love?

You see dear friends I believe how you respond to that question of how you love your God- of what you do out of love for God is essential to consider. Now, I know not all of us can sing a song like Mary or write a poetic narrative that would reflect all of who God is to us- and that's not what we need to do- but just as Mary's voice penetrated a dark, scary, hate filled world we too must penetrate the world we live in by living out the response to the love God has given us. So...do you love God....really...does the world know. What does your life, your voice, your very being have to say about who your God is? How you live reflects the God you serve- there's no way around it- if you declare to be a Christian- a follower of God then your very life is an imprint of that God. And the world desperately longs for you, for me, for the Church to penetrate the noise of violence and hate, oppression and hunger, pain and aggression with a voice of hope, of truth, of joy, of peace. Friends we have work to do- if we love God then boy oh boy do we have work to do- and boy oh boy do we have an opportunity. It does not take much effort to see how much our world needs the hope of this God Mary talks about, that I hear you talk about- the world needs this God- this hope this truth, this promise- and you are the ones that the world looks to for that word...do

you love God? Does the world know?

I want to read about this God again for us- according to Mary. This is the God that we declare we love, this is the God that we come to feast with at the table, this is the God who frees us to be his servants in the world- to be his agents of peace and love- Mary says this- just listen, ***“the Mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things”*** Friends- that is our God- that is Mary’s song yes but that is our song too- our God- the one who does all those things loves you- and you say you love him- does the world know? So I ask one more time- do you really love God? What are you doing in your life, in your being to reflect the love that God has given you? The world longs to hear from you friends, so start singing your song.

God loves you and so do I. Amen.