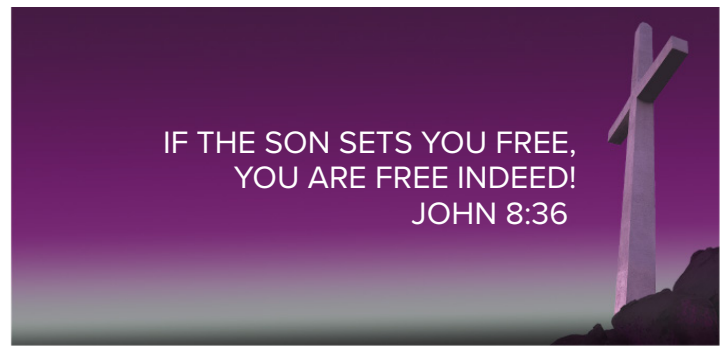


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“The Mighty One has done great things for me.” —Luke 1:49

The family gathered around as I was about to dedicate to God one of my precious step-grandchildren. She was, and continues to be, a bundle of joy and tenderness. What Bible text could appropriately express such happiness about God’s gift of a child? Two biblical mothers came to mind, both with exuberant songs of praise to God for His favor bestowed upon them. As we read these songs, our hearts were filled with thanksgiving.

The first song comes from the heart of Hannah, a misunderstood woman who wasn’t able to conceive (see 1 Samuel 1:2). Her husband’s second wife constantly provoked her because of her barrenness. She wept, refused to eat, and could not be comforted. When her family went to Shiloh, she brought her request for a son to the tabernacle. But even there she was misunderstood! Eli, the priest, mistook her for a drunk woman and rebuked her, yet Hannah humbly explained that she was pouring out her heart to God, requesting His favor. Eli pronounced a blessing upon her, and Hannah conceived! Her exuberant song of thanksgiving is recorded in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. “My heart exults in the LORD . . . I rejoice in Your salvation” (1 Samuel 2:1). Her son, the prophet Samuel, would eventually anoint King David.

More than one thousand years later, we find the second song. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is greeted by an angel: “Greetings, favored one!” (Luke 1:28). She is then told that she will conceive a child through the Holy Spirit. He will be the Son of the Most High and have the throne of His father David (verse 32). Mary erupts in a song of thanksgiving that is based on Hannah’s song: “My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. . . . The Mighty One has done great things for me” (Luke 1:46-49). This song is called the “Magnificat” after its first word in Latin. This is the first of four songs found in the first two chapters of Luke! Songs of thanksgiving always overflow from our grateful hearts when we get a glimpse of the magnitude of His favor in the plan of redemption!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 371.