**The Gift of Humility**

The Wonder of Christmas: “God holding power for the good of others.”

“God opposes the proud but favors the humble” James 4:6

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up in honor.” James 4:10

Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ‎47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ‎48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ‎49 For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. ‎50 He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. ‎51 His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. ‎52 He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. Luke 1:46-52

1. Mary was in awe of God’s blessing

16They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, 19but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 20The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. Luke 2:16-20

1. The shepherds told the story – it’s about God

22Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. 23The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.”\* 24So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”\* Luke 2:22-24

1. Joseph and Mary made an obedient sacrifice

25At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God…,

36Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. 37Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.\* She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. 38She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem. Luke 2:25-27, 36-38

1. Simeon and Anna eagerly waited for God’s rescue