



December 5, 2021

“Be It Done Then”

Luke 1:26-56

Mary’s Model

Mary’s famous words of surrender: the universal declaration of authentic discipleship: 1:38

What would be the cost of Mary’s surrender?

In spite of such costs, the end of Mary’s surrender is blessedness: 1:28, 42, 45, 48

The firm belief that (no matter what) God’s path for me is the *summum bonum* for my life

To which I will willingly yield if/when its demands threaten my “preferred future”

How Do We Practically Imitate the Model of Mary?

At the heart of every baptism is this same “be it done then”

Most of us will not have angelic visitations or prophetic directives

So we begin with soaking ourselves in the Scriptures and in a life of prayer

Then we use the radar of our hearts desires and the map of our giftings

On the way the road forks and we must discern which way seems most aligned with Jesus

Some of the Jesus-routes will feel like a threat to our preferred future

Turning down a short-cut to our desired end (that has some taint of compromise in it)

Athletes taking steroids, people padding resumes or fudging on taxes

Taking a path that seems to suggest a trajectory away from our preferred future

George MacDonald’s journey

How Mary’s Song of Praise Helps Us Remain True to Our Baptismal Vows

Jesus’ path will often seem like an exercise in losing

Laying down our lives, taking up a cross, giving away, being last, being poor, being weak

One reason: the fiery love of God is purifying everything that is compromised

Jesus’ distinctive path (and ours in consequence) is down, then up: see Philippians 2:6-11

Mary names this upside down kingdom reality 30 years before the teaching of Jesus

He has looked on the humble estate (48), scattered the proud (51), brought down the mighty (52), exalted the humble (52), filled the hungry (53), sent the rich away empty (53)

Those that lay down their lives will find them: Matt 10:39 16:25; Mark 8:35, 10:29; Luke 9:48; John 12:24,25)