## **God exalts the humble and throws down the exalted! December 21 2024**

## **The great lesson that all creation is being taught is this:**

## ***Luke 1:46 And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.***



## ***49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.***



## ***51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.***



## ***54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”***



## **Perhaps it is like this because of the wicked one…**

## ***Isaiah 14:12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!***



## ***13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’***

## ***15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.***

## **Note the humility of the birth of Christ in contrast:**

## **Zacharias and Elizabeth: Simple priest and barren wife!**

## **Joseph and Mary: Young people betrothed to be married, distressed because Mary is pregnant without touching a man!**



## **Shepherds: Poor livestock handlers who live outside with their sheep.**



## **LOCATION: The savior of the world born in a barn and put in a feed trough.**

## **Simeon: An old man who has waited his whole life for**…***Luke 2:32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”***

## **Anna: A widow who stayed in the temple quietly praying and fasting.**

## **In Isaiah 14, (the devil’s “I wills”) demonstrate everything that is wrong because of sin!**



## **Note all the contrasts:**

## **The famous priests were left out.**

## **He was not born to a king or Queen.**

## **The powerful rulers were left out.**

## **A fancy palace was left out.**

## **Herod was left out.**

## **Powerful Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes all left out.**

## **Anybody who was anybody was left out!**

## ***Mat 22:8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 ‘Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’***

## ***10 “So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.***



## **Mat 10:31 “But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.”**

## **The way to destruction is wide**

## ***Luke 13:22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.***

## ***25 “When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying,***

## ***‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ 26 “then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ 27 “But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’***

## ***28 “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob***



## ***and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 “They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 “And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”***

## **To the religious leaders, He says woe!**

## ***Mat 23:13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.***

## **To Jerusalem He says:**

## ***Mat 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!***

## ***38 “See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 “for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”***

## **He called tax collectors**

## **He called fishermen**

## **He called lowly women**

## ***Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men–extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.***

## ***12 ‘I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’***

## ***14 “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”***



## **Humility exposes our true self!**



## **Pride attempts to hide it!**

## ***Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.***



## ***12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” 13 “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;***



## ***“The poison of asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known.”***

## ***18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.***



## ***20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,***



## ***22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace***



## ***through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,***



## ***26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

## **Next week: Once more God’s glory appears!**

