

"My soul magnifies the Lord ..."



As Christmas draws near in this Year of Mercy, we are drawn to the person of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Have you ever thought about her words: 'My soul magnifies the Lord'? They seem strange words from a young woman who knew the abundance of God's mercy in her life. Yet they are her first response at the Annunciation.

I wonder what it means to 'magnify the Lord'. We use a magnifying glass to make what is small appear larger. If we place a magnifying glass on a page of small writing, the words leap out at us. What was insignificant becomes bold.

When we think of magnifying God, we are suddenly at odds. God is not small. God's love is not contained. We know God's mercy as gratuitous - given freely, with the expectation of nothing in return. Perhaps the magnifying glass needs to be placed on our own lives. What is our perspective? Have we made God small? Do our lives reflect the magnanimity of a tender compassionate God?

In the quiet of contemplative prayer, we can place the magnifier on God's presence with us and in quiet and stillness be grateful that our God of mercy and compassion never regards us as 'small' - "You are precious in my eyes and I love you."

Our response must be one of mercy in action. Do you remember learning that a magnifying glass can be used to set things on fire? If we truly magnify God in the daily living of ordinary lives, we will be people who are warm and compassionate; we will challenge the cold-hearted responses of governments to the poor; we will reach out to the down-hearted assuring them that they, too, are precious in God's eyes.

May our last days of Advent be days of blessing. May each one of us be the light that shines in the darkness.



Image: Jump for Joy - Mary and Elizabeth by Corby Eisbacher

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