

Mary's Song: A Vision for 2026

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Magnifying God in Every Circumstance

Reading: Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Devotional:

Mary's response to life-changing news wasn't panic—it was praise. "My soul magnifies the Lord," she sang, even facing an uncertain future. What does it mean to magnify God? It means to make Him bigger in our perspective, to focus on His greatness rather than our problems. This week, you face challenges that seem overwhelming. Like Mary, you have a choice: magnify your problems or magnify your God. The circumstances don't change immediately, but your perspective does. Prayer is the lens that brings God into focus. Today, practice a simple two-word prayer: "Help me." Watch how this shifts your attention from the mountain before you to the Mountain Mover beside you.

Reflection Question: What problem is currently taking up more space in your heart than God?

Day 2: The Power of Humility

Reading: James 4:6-10

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Devotional:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." These aren't just nice words—they're spiritual reality. Mary understood her place in God's story: "He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant." Humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. It's acknowledging the pecking order: God is up there, we are down here. When we revere and defer to God, mercy flows toward us. Pride blocks that flow, creating distance between us and divine grace. The humble person doesn't pretend to have all the answers or refuse help. They recognize their need for God daily. Today, practice humility by acknowledging one area where you need God's wisdom more than your own understanding.

Reflection Question: Where in your life are you trying to be "large and in charge" instead of letting God lead?

Day 3: God's Ancient Plan, Your Present Hope

Reading: Genesis 49:8-10; Galatians 4:4-5

Genesis 49:8-10

"Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. You are a lion's club, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dare to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Devotional:

God has always had a plan. From Jacob's blessing of Judah, promising a ruler until "Shiloh"—the peaceful one—would come, God was dropping breadcrumbs through history. When the time was fully right, Jesus arrived. This wasn't improvisation; this was divine orchestration across millennia. If God can unveil a master plan over thousands of years, imagine His care and provision for your life. The same God who planned salvation from the foundation of the world has plans for you today. Your current struggle isn't a surprise to Him. The chaos you're experiencing isn't beyond His reach. God specializes in making ways through impossibilities. Trust that the God of the ancient plan is the God of your present moment.

Reflection Question: What "breadcrumbs" of God's faithfulness can you trace in your own life story?

Day 4: Peace in the Valley of Shadows

Reading: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Devotional:

Mary sang of God's mercy extending "from generation to generation," even as she faced potential scandal, rejection, and danger. She chose to focus on God's faithfulness rather than her fears. You may be walking through your own valley of shadows—grief, uncertainty, loss, or pain. God doesn't always prevent the valley, but He promises to walk through it with you. The Prince of Peace, Shiloh, came precisely because we need peace in a world of violence, heartbreak, and death. When life doesn't make sense, when there are no easy answers, God's presence becomes our peace. He doesn't cause the bad things, but He has a plan to bring you through to the other side. Today, invite Jesus into your darkest valley.

Reflection Question: Where do you most desperately need God's peace right now?

Day 5: Winnowed or Collected?

Reading: Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 1:51-53

Matthew 3:11-12

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Luke 1:51-53

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Devotional:

Mary sang that God "has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts." The image is of winnowing—separating wheat from chaff. God wants to collect the good and discard the useless. As we begin this new year, what needs to be winnowed from your life? What pride, bitterness, or self-sufficiency needs to be blown away so that the good grain of humility, faith, and trust can be gathered? God doesn't winnow to destroy us but to refine us, keeping what's valuable and releasing what hinders. The choice is ours: will we cling to our pride and be scattered, or will we embrace humility and be collected into God's storehouse? Choose to be wheat, not chaff. Revere God, defer to His wisdom, and experience the grace that flows to the humble.

Reflection Question: What "chaff" in your life is God inviting you to release this year?

Closing Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, like Mary, may we magnify You in every circumstance. Give us humble hearts that revere Your greatness and defer to Your wisdom. Help us trust in Your ancient plan and find peace in Your presence, even in the valleys. Winnow away our pride and collect us into Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.