

Third Week of Advent
Saturday 19 December 2020

Reflection 21 - Day 21

He took notice of me

Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.
His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.” (Luke 1.46-55)

I have to admit I have never really studied or read this passage much before this reflection. I think it's amazing to see Mary's response, to read of her great admiration and recognition of the blessing it is to be a part of the story of God. I have loved reading verse 48, *“for he took notice of me”*.

As I think about this season of life we have journeyed through as a community and nation I am comforted by the reminder that God is with us. Just hearing the name 'Immanuel' draws me closer to Him. But truly knowing that, as He took notice of Mary, He also takes notice of us, can bring even deeper closeness.

There is something special about being noticed and not just seen. That God notices this Christmastime when we might be struggling or confused or not as joyful as normal. I like to think that He notices our changes and true desires in our hearts, especially this Christmastime.

What a privilege it is to be noticed and called to journey alongside Him. I can't imagine all of Mary's emotions at that time, but knowing that, just like her, we're honoured and invited by the one who notices us can bring us joy this Christmas.

Father God,

I thank you that you are a father and a friend. Thank you that when I feel alone and isolated, you not only notice me, but have never left my side.

Help me to be like you. Help me to see the lonely and to be a friend. Help me to see those who aren't noticed, and to notice them as you notice me.

Show me how to love like you have loved me.

Amen.