



This week at Magdalen Road Church we continued our time in Mary's Magnificat from Luke 1 v50-55.

We considered especially how the tense that Mary uses (the aorist) shows that God's past actions, which are complete and finished have a future, ongoing certainty and relevance. That is, as Mary looks back and considers what God HAS done, so she uses a tense that points ahead to his ONGOING and indeed, FUTURE faithfulness. This is not simply a history lesson, but prophetic praise.

Which means we, with Mary, are able to look back with thankfulness to God's actions and so look ahead with hope.

- What are the key words in these verses? Look for recurring themes and ideas too.
- What past actions do you think Mary is reflecting on as she describes what God has done? How are they counter-cultural? How do we see some of these happening (again) even through the gospels of the pages of the New Testament?
- How is it that Mary can sing with hope?
- Do you think Mary's song of hope has been realised? Why or why not?
- We finished by reflecting on the fact that as believers we can be weird:
- (1) weird in our following a God who works counter-culturally. In what ways do you find it hard to hold your nerve when you don't want to be different from the world?
- (2) weird in being hopeful. Even though Mary's life looked dark and messy, she was hopeful as she trusted that God was at work. Where do you need to hear this?