

Magnify the Lord

A Sermon by Rev. Derek Elphick

1. Introduction - Word full of gems, each word/phrase opens heaven

Of all the things Mary could have said...*"My soul magnifies the Lord..." (Luke 1:46)*

2. We are invited to magnify...

"Look through a good microscope and you will see incredible things..." (DP 3)

Magnify a leaf, seed, organism, snowflake, etc. and we will see and feel things we've never seen or felt before.

3. No freedom at the time of the Advent...

"All good, both spiritual and natural, had perished, for people were such that they were not even capable [of feeling remorse] or shame..." (AC 217)

"There is no freedom in one direction unless there is freedom in the other direction as well..." (CL 438) - "there is no weighing unless the scales can tilt both ways" (Ibid).

4. We now have the freedom/ability to "magnify" good (over evil)...

"If we believed what is really the case, it would not be evil but good from the Lord that became our own..." (AC 6206) - e.g. of a saving truth

We now have the freedom to *magnify* truth. We may not *feel* free (from evil) but *ability to choose* has been restored/know the source/origin of good and evil.

5. All spiritual growth/regeneration starts out "small..."

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come the One to be ruler in Israel..." (Micah 5:2) John - *"He must increase, but I must decrease..." (John 3:30)* - magnify the wrong things (e.g. speck in brother's eye)

6. Not just inanimate objects, people too - there's more than meets the eye...

"...and you will see incredible things..." (DP 3). Are you not of more value than they? People/the mind has layers/degrees - don't judge by appearances/externally

7. Conclusion - magnify the Lord/what is good

Our words/choices are like a magnifying glass/magnify the use

The Lord needs ambassadors/messengers/Peace on Earth/Good will

Gratitude like Mary, *"He who is mighty has done great things" (Luke 1:49)*