

CHAPTER 2

Today's passage to ponder is Mary's Magnificat, which is found in *Luke 1:46–56*.

*And Mary said:
“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months
and then returned to her home.*

1. Read the passage slowly and meditate on the text. In which words do you particularly hear Mary's joy? Where do you find joy like hers in your life? Is this joy a fruit of your vocation?

CHAPTER 2

2. Describe a time when you felt joyful momentum about a new endeavor. Did the initial excitement last? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever allowed yourself to become overcommitted? Why did this happen? What did you do about it? Did you make the decisions that led to your overcommitment during a time of consolation or desolation?
4. If you feel “a call within a call” to women’s ministry, how does this call fit within other vocations in your life? Are there aspects of your work that do not fit within your vocation? If so, are there things you need to stop doing to make room to serve within your vocation? Talk with a spiritual friend about this.

CHAPTER 3

Today's passage to ponder is *Luke 10:30–37*, the parable of the good Samaritan. In this parable, a “scholar of the law” tests Jesus with a seemingly innocuous question: “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

1. This parable is likely very familiar to you. Did something stand out to you this time? What characteristics of hospitality do you see in this parable?
2. Consider a time when your hope was challenged. What was the challenge, and how did you overcome this situation? How have you matured in hope since then? Who helped you, and what did that person do? Consider sending that person a note of thanks.

CHAPTER 3

3. Reflecting on women's ministry, how has someone served you with hospitality? How did this affect your hope? Did you reciprocate the hospitality to this person, or toward someone else?

4. Think of a time when you felt welcomed into a new community. What did others do to make you feel welcome? How does your community welcome newcomers? Make a list of at least five ways that you can help new people feel welcome.

5. If you have an active women's ministry, think of your group's primary meeting. From the beginning of the gathering to the end, list all the ways that your group practices hospitality. What are at least three ways that you can improve? If you are starting a women's ministry, consider how you will incorporate hospitality into your new group.