



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 12 December 2021

Advent 3 – Favour Luke 1.

Please read Luke 1.7-16

1. What does this reveal about the way in which God sometimes chooses to answer prayer?

God's favour is a way of speaking about how God acts in graciously choosing to bless people by involving them with him in his plans and purposes.

2. How were the people of Israel favoured by God in the Old Testament, and what was the intended purpose of God's favour on the nation?

Please read Luke 1. 26-28; 35-38; 45

*In addition, scripture also records that certain people (including Noah, Gideon and Mary) 'found favour with God' as they were called to take up specific responsibilities in God's divine plan. **Please also read Genesis 6.9; Isaiah 66.2; Micah 6.8***

3. What enabled God to trust these certain people with his favour for these roles?

Mary was highly favoured and richly blessed by God. The Lord was with her. She was given a unique and deeply significant calling and purpose by God.

However, the favour and blessing of God should not be confused with a straightforward life or an easy life.

4. As Mary follows God's call on her life – to be a loving mother to Jesus - she experiences excitement; hardship; alienation; grief; confusion; pain; loss; and Spirit-filled joy. What does Mary's life teach us about what it truly means to be 'favoured by God'?
5. What inspires and encourages you about Mary?

Please read Luke 1.39-46

6. Why do you think Mary's trip to visit Elizabeth would have been such a blessing and encouragement to her?
7. How might we bless and encourage others in a similar way to Elizabeth?

Please read Luke 1.46-56

8. What inspires you as you read Mary's song of praise in response to God's call on her life? (Remember this is the prayerful response of a teenage girl)