

MESSAGES OF JOY

First Sunday of Advent

Luke One

WHAT IS “ADVENT”?



Definition:

“The arrival of an important person, place, or thing.”

- Marks the end of waiting
- The realization of something that has been longed for

Reminder: God has not forgot His promise to take care of His children

ZECHARIAH

- Remember we have a God who **LISTENS** to US (v.11-15)

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.” – Psalm 56:8 NLT

- Do not let hard times make us afraid to **HOPE** (v. 18)

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

– Galatians 6:9 NLT



“SHE IS MINE!”

Stephanie Fast

- Father was an American Service man
- South Korean Mother was pressured to abandon her “toungee”
- On her own at 4 years old



A WAR ORPHAN'S INCREDIBLE
JOURNEY OF SURVIVAL

STEPHANIE FAST

SHE IS MINE





ZECHARIAH

- **Be careful how we THINK and SPEAK about life v.19-20**

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” - Proverbs 18:21 ESV

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” – Philippians 4:8 NLT



MARY

- **BELIEF** and **OBEDIENCE** lead to **JOY** (v.34-38)

“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22 ESV

- **SHARE** your **LIFE’S JOURNEY** with **OTHERS**
(v. 39-40, 46-47, 56)

*“Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2 ESV*

***“I WANTED TO BE OUT THERE
WITH THE REST OF THEM”***



Savannah Moore

- Excelled in boot camp
- Most difficult time was when on bed rest
- Not because she was sick, but because she could not share the experience



ELIZABETH

- **Elizabeth expresses THANKS to GOD** v. 23-25

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

- **EMPOWERED** by the Holy Spirit she is **EXCITED,**
NOT ENVIOUS of the blessing of others (v. 41-45)

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep” – Romans 12:15 ESV*

“I CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE JOY”



Jarrett Benz

- Co-Worker unfairly taking extra work
- Jarrett decided to give it to God and not stress
- Jarrett ended up with more tips than co-worker who did 3x work

MESSAGES OF JOY

- Do Not let Hard Times make it Hard for Us to Hope
- Belief and Obedience lead to Joy
- Share your Life's Journey (Joys and Sorrows) with Others
- Be Thankful for What God has Blessed You with
- Be Excited, not Envious, of How God is Blessing Others

**Take JOY in a God who
HONORS His PROMISES
and REWARDS Our Faithfulness**
(Luke 1:57-66)

