

December 18th



*“From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee...”*

*—Charles Wesley
Come Though Long Expected Jesus*

Advent 2022

—A SEASON OF LONGING—

“DAVID & JOSEPH: LONGING FOR REST”

Introduction:

Because life in a fallen world can be exhausting, **rest** or lack thereof is often used to describe the eternal state (Rev. 14:11,13). Our lives are often characterized by a restlessness that can result from own sins, the sins of others, or circumstances that are beyond our control. As we have time to reflect during this Advent season, we do well to consider what things contribute to that sense of restlessness and how the Lord Jesus will ultimately bring about the rest that we long for.

Key Point: In the incarnation, God has come to us to grant _____ and give _____, delivering us from both the sins and fears that beset us as we live in a fallen world.

The Sins of David

- Although David walked with the Lord, his personal _____ (sexual sin in particular) is highlighted in the accounts of 1 & 2 Samuel.

1 Sam. 25:42-43—⁴² And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife. ⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives.

2 Sam. 5:12-13—¹² And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. ¹³ And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David.

⇒ This was a specific violation of God's commands regarding how the kings of Israel were to conduct themselves (Deut. 17:17).

2 Sam 11:2-5—² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

2 Sam. 11:15-17—¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” ¹⁶ And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

- David responded rightly to God's word of _____.

2 Sam. 12:9,13—⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites...¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

Psa. 51:7-12—⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Key Point: David's longing for rest was centered on his sin and its _____.

The Fears of Joseph

- Although Joseph walked with the Lord, he was a man who carried many _____ and burdens.

Matt. 1:18-19—¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

- **Joseph responded rightly to God's word of _____.**

Matt. 1:20—²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit..."²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-5—¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Key Point: Joseph's longings centered on his fears associated with the _____ of seeking to honor the Lord and lead a family in a fallen world.

The God Who Grants Rest

- **The Lord met David in his longings, granting to him forgiveness and restoration.**

Psa. 32:1-5—¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

- **The Lord met Joseph in his longings, granting to him assurance of His presence and guidance.**

Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23—¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod... ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Key Point: The promises of God concerning the Lord Jesus assure both the _____ and the _____.

Matt. 1:21— "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:31-33—³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Advent & Our Longings

1. **We do well to reflect this Advent on how God, in the incarnation of Christ, has addressed our _____.**

2 Cor. 5:21—For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. **We do well to reflect this Advent on how God, in the incarnation of Christ, has addressed our _____ in order to give to us assurance of His presence and guidance as we live in a fallen world.**

Rev. 1:17-18—¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

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Key Point: In the incarnation, God has come to us to grant **rest** and give **hope**, delivering us from both the sins and fears that beset us as we live in a fallen world.

The Sins of David

- Although David walked with the Lord, his personal **unrighteousness** (sexual sin in particular) is highlighted in the accounts of 1 & 2 Samuel.

1 Sam. 25:42-43—⁴² And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife. ⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives.

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- David responded rightly to God's word of **rebuke**.

2 Sam. 12:9,13—⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites...¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

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Key Point: David's longing for rest was centered on his sin and its **consequences**.

The Fears of Joseph

- Although Joseph walked with the Lord, he was a man who carried many **concerns** and burdens.

Matt. 1:18-19—¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

- **Joseph responded rightly to God's word of exhortation.**

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Key Point: The promises of God concerning the Lord Jesus assure both the sinful and the fearful.

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