

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:7-18—The Generosity of Hope

John preached a message of hope—in God alone. The Israelites in John’s day relied on their long history as God’s chosen people—to secure their place in eternity with the Lord. John the Baptist helped them understand their ancestry was not the key to right relationship with God, or entrance into His Kingdom.

When the people asked what to do—instead of what they had depended upon for so long—John told them to live generously.

In your work, your community, your church—be generous. If you have clothing, share your extras. When your cupboards are full, give all you can. Be content with what you have, so you’ll recognize when you have surplus. Those resources provide for those who are without the necessities of life nearby.

We need the generosity of a Savior Who loves, pursues, and provides. Advent calls us to join Jesus in kindness that transforms a person’s situation and tells them God loves them.

Hope As a Way of Life

Find ways—this week—to live like Jesus. People may not come to you for healing or hear religious instruction, but people do come near you. How can you demonstrate God’s love and hope?

By being generous. If you have enough of something, give the extra away. In your work and in your play, give more to others than you keep for yourself. If you are in need, let someone know, so your needs may be met.

Keep notes about the opportunities the Lord brings your way, and how He gave hope away through you. This week, may your abundance translate into generous hope for someone else.

Next week: 4th Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:46-55

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 146* (Ask God's Spirit to speak to you.)

Monday: *Luke 1:26-33*

Tuesday: *Job 33:29-33*

Wednesday: *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

Thursday: *1 Samuel 3:11-18*

Friday: *Mark 9:2-8*

Saturday: *John 10:1-6*

God's Promise:

"I will never leave you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

My Response:

"My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast...
for Your love is as high as the heavens; Your faithfulness
extends to the clouds." Psalm 57:7-10

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