

The Promised King  
The Mission of the King  
Isaiah 61:1-11

Advent gives us the chance to celebrate something very, very old, yet vibrantly alive as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. On the one hand, the arrival of God's Messiah, the Redeemer, who is the Son of God, has been prophetically described since the days of Eden, when Adam and Eve fell into sin. It is something that at one small people group had been expecting all along. On the other hand, the implications of His arrival arrest our attention and often take us completely by surprise. Even the most ardent nonbeliever will hear songs of this One who was born 2 thousand years ago.

1. The King comes to preach good news.
2. The King comes to proclaim jubilee (freedom).
3. The King comes to promote blessing.

I don't know what life has been like for you. Perhaps, it has been so hard that you've wondered what the point of it all was. It could be the recent tragedies or trials feel so heavy that it's hard to imagine any good thing coming your way, and you can barely hear His voice, calling so tenderly, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) He stands ready to restore what has been taken away, to set you free from self-imposed addictions and the slavery of sin. He longs to heal your brokenness. Come!

For further consideration:

Take a moment to reflect on your conversion experience. How have you worn the garment of salvation and the robe of righteousness since then? How has the joy that God planted in the depths of your soul impacted the way you view the world? How has it helped you through difficult circumstances or trying times? Have people in your spheres of influenced noticed it? If you were to survey the people around you, would they describe you as joyful? Is there something in your life that God can change so that the joy of salvation will not only be evident in your life, but contagious to those around you?