

Christmas is Over, Now What?
A Personal Devotional
Sunday, December 27, 2015

Christmas is an exciting season for some people and a depressing time for others. The year-end is also a time to reflect on what we've accomplished, wrestle through disappointments and failures, and anticipate what a new year holds. Here are a few thoughts on where we go from here after celebrating the greatest gift ever given to man – the opportunity for new life through Jesus Christ.

1. Life is worth living.

This sounds so simple, but without Jesus, life can feel very meaningless. I found myself suicidal at 17-years- old one December night in Lubbock, TX. What's crazy is there was nothing really wrong in my life other than the reality that the enemy is out to steal, kill, and destroy. Over the last few weeks, a song has resonated in my spirit that may resonate with some of you right now too. The source may surprise you, but if God can speak through a donkey (Numbers 22:28), He might also speak to you through a popular song called "Life is Worth Living."

[Click here](#) to view the lyrical version on YouTube.

Do you find yourself at a crossroads in life today? Is a relationship on the brink of destruction? Life is worth living because God chose to become a man through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He came for one purpose - to save you and me from our sins. Our life finds meaning and purpose in a relationship with Him.

Matthew 1:21 (ESV)

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

Jesus grew up and began his earthly ministry with a simple message...

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Repentance means a sincere turning away, in both the mind and heart, from self to God.

- Have you responded to the good news of Jesus? If so, when did that happen? How has your life changed since following Christ? Can other people tell by the way you live that you turned to Christ?

- If you have not responded to the good news of Jesus Christ, you can do that now. For assistance with how to respond to Christ, download the One2One app on Google or iTunes or call the church at 432-563-9444. Follow the after hours prompts to get a call from a church leader.

2. Jesus says, “Follow me.”

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- What steps are you willing to take today to follow Jesus?
- On average, how many days a week are you spending meaningful time with God? What improvements would you like to make here in 2016?
- Who do you know that needs to follow Jesus? Are you willing to be used by God to tell them the good news you have already received?
- Following Jesus is more than praying a prayer; it’s a new way of living.

3. Reconcile relationships by letting go of anger and unforgiveness.

Matthew 5:21–24 (ESV)

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- It’s time to be reconciled with broken relationships in your life. Who do you need to forgive? Is there anyone you need to ask to forgive you?
- What keeps you from letting go of past hurts and anger?
- Are you willing to fight for your marriage in 2016?
- Who do you need to call this week to make things right?

Following Jesus is not easy. There will be great opposition and challenges. So now that Christmas is over, now what? Now it’s time to enjoy the gift you’ve been given by following the one who gave you life. Repent of your sins. Follow Jesus. Make disciples. Reconcile relationships. Life is worth living when you live for a purpose and person greater than yourself. It’s going to be a great 2016.