

**CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!**  
**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Waiting in Hope

December 4, 2020

Text: Matthew 12:15-21

Meditation:

Please read the text. Jesus had just healed a man's deformed hand on the Sabbath in front of the Pharisees. Jesus shuts them down by saying it is okay to do good on the Sabbath and healing people is something good. The Pharisees, however, begin to plot to kill Jesus. That is what verse 15 is talking about. Jesus knew they had begun their plotting.

But it didn't stop Jesus. He departs but continues to heal the sick, many of them, but insists they not reveal who he is. Matthew quotes a passage from Isaiah 42 which describes this scene. Jesus is not a rabble rouser. He just heals and serves his creation. Notice the last verse. *"His name will be the hope of the world."*

In our world covered in darkness, fear, distrust and plotting, the need for this hope of the world is ever present. Just as in Jesus' time, our world is sick, hate-filled, and stuck in the darkness. But we have the light of hope that shines in this darkness. It fills us and we are blessed by it. We wait in hope to celebrate Christ's first arrival and in hope for Christ's return. We share this hope with others who need healing, love, kindness, gentleness and the anchor to cling to so they don't get swept away into the darkness forever.

How will you live into this hope today and what effect will it have on your life?

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Who do you know needs this hope in their lives and how will you share it with them?

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Prayer:

O blessed One whose name is the Hope of the World, thank you for coming to us as a babe, bringing healing, proclaiming justice, neither crushing or extinguishing the light, but has become victorious all for our sakes. We wait in hope now for your return. Amen.

