

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

2nd Week of Advent – Waiting in Peace Actively

December 7, 2020

Text: Isaiah 62:1-4

Meditation:

Isaiah is speaking of the future in these verses. Isaiah is writing about God's promise for peace. Isaiah told the Israelites: "I will not remain silent – I will not remain quiet."

Jerusalem (the nation of God's chosen) will experience the righteousness of the Lord. These verses encourage us to be at peace and move through the desolate times. For us today, these desolate times may be personal, or national, but as believers we wait in peace, for we know the desolate times are temporary. God is in control. When Isaiah tells the Israelites they will be called Hephzibah. Translation: God will be delighted in her (the church). Beulah means married. The Church is the bride and Jesus is the bridegroom.

Jesus is coming back for the bride (the church); and like the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) we (the church) are called to be waiting. The symbolic picture is "oil in our lamps," so we can see (be enlightened). We will be watching, preparing, and actively waiting in peace for the return of the bridegroom, Jesus.

"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour," of Christ's return. See Matthew 25:13.

Question #1

Ask yourself, are you ready for the return of Christ? Are you prepared? In the past, have your Christmas celebrations only been about the babe in the manger? This Advent how will you celebrate so that you may actively wait in peace for Christ's return?

Question #2

In addition to the parable of the 10 virgins, Jesus gives us other parables of actively waiting. (Matthew 24:36-45) In verse 24:44, Jesus said, "So you must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Pray this Christmas will be a season to prepare your heart for Christ's return. How will you share the "good news" with family, friends, or someone new?

Prayer:

Father, draw us close to you, and let our hearts be at peace; no matter what is going on around us. Allow us to keep our eyes on you as we wait actively – sharing the good news of Christ and the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen