



## **Advent Through the Lens of Isaiah: The King is Coming!**

Advent 3 *Recognizing the King when He Comes.*

Isaiah 35:1-10 with Matthew 11:2-11

### **Focus Scripture**

“[B]ut the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads...”

—Isaiah 35:9b-10a

### **Transformation and Witness**

*Looking at life through today's disappointments makes you a captive of your expectations. But looking at life through the glory of the Christ's redemption releases you to sing for joy.*

### **Up in Worship**

How has God enabled you to worship Him by letting go of your own dream in order to embrace His?

### **Into Community**

1. Name something or someone you looked forward to, believed in, and worked for recently that did not turn out the way you expected. How did you respond to your disappointed expectations?

### **Read Isaiah 35:1-10**

2. What happens to the desert wilderness when the Lord comes to save his people (1-7)?

3. Why do you think the Lord's coming has this kind of effect on the land itself? (See also Genesis 3:13-19; Romans 8:18-25).

A. What does this effect reveal about God who is coming to save and restore His world?

B. How might land also picture the landscape of our hearts and the impact of God's salvation spiritually as well as physically?

C. What do the patterns from Isaiah 1 and 2; 10 and 11; and 34 and 35 teach you about how God's salvation will come to people?



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4. From Isaiah 35:8-10, other passages of scripture, and a dictionary, what does it mean to be “redeemed”?

5. How is the Lord Jesus Christ a Redeemer? (See also I Peter 1:18-19). How has he redeemed your life, and what is your response as a result?

6. Describe the highway leading God’s people to their eternal home in Zion (8-10). What will this highway be like and what kind of people will be able to walk on it?

### **Read Matthew 11:2-11**

7. Why do you think John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the one (2-3)?

8. What signs does Jesus give as proof that he is the promised Messiah King? How does he also affirm John the Baptist, his ministry, and others who labor in His kingdom (4-11)?

### **Out in Mission**

Jesus says, “...blessed is the one who is not offended by me” (11:6).

What do these words reveal about what it means to look for and labor in Christ’s kingdom in the now and not yet of its fulfillment?

How may God redeem your disappointed expectations regarding His work, promises, and move in your life? What hope as a result could you offer those who are disappointed around you?

How does focusing on the joy before you enable you to live as a witness of King Jesus wherever He has place you?