



Scripture Reading

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
Zephaniah 3:16-18

Devotional

What comes into your mind when you think about God? According to A. W. Tozer, the answer to this question is of the utmost importance. What we think about God will be the engine that drives the rest of our decisions. As we think through the question we can see if what we think about God matches up with what we read about God in the Bible. In this season of advent, another way of approaching the question is to ask, do I really believe that God loves me? Do I really believe as it states in Zephaniah that God rejoices over me with gladness? Will God truly quiet me with his love?

On this Christmas Day, we celebrate one of God's great acts of love. In the birth of Jesus we see God's great love for us. Jesus, though in the form of God, emptied himself to become a servant and was born in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:6-7). Jesus is the mighty one who will save us from our sins and our bondage. Jesus' birth is marked by the same thing that will permeate the rest of his life and ministry, love. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we let our lives be permeated by a God whose love rejoices over us with gladness; the same love that drives Jesus to come be in our midst.

Response

T-One way we can reverse engineer the opening question to find an answer, is to look at our actions and see what we actually think about God. What do your actions tell you about your beliefs?

-Do you believe that God loves you? Do you really believe that God rejoices over you with gladness? Will God truly quiet you with his love?

-If no, can you begin to identify what is causing you to say no?

-Spend some time in prayer asking God to let God's love permeate through you. Be quieted by God's love and revel in God exulting over you with loud singing.