

ZECARIAH 9:9-13

FROM STRIVING TO ABIDING

Zechariah 9:9-13 – *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.”*

Advent – *“a coming into place, view, or being; arrival”*

Because of his advent, Jesus our Savior brings us from striving to abiding.

Strive – *“to exert vigorously, or try hard; to make strenuous efforts toward a goal”*

Jeremiah 2:13 – *“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

Abide – *“to remain, continue, or stay”*

3 Truths About Jesus' Advent:

1. Jesus' rule puts an end to the conventional means of advancement (v. 10)

Psalms 46:8-10 – *“Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. “Be still (cease striving), and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”*

Canon Glenn – *“Striving endeavors to earn God's good graces, achieve God's promises, and fulfill God's vision all in our timing and in strength. Abiding in Christ is holding steady in the presence of Christ, trusting his promises by faith irrespective of the challenges, trials, and tribulations of our lives.”*

2. Jesus' rule speaks peace into the chaos of our condition (v. 10)

Luke 19:42 – *“Would that you...had known on this day the things that make for peace!”*

3. Jesus' rule is a stronghold of hope for his covenant people (vv. 11-12)

John 15:1-11 – *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full..”*

Hudson Taylor – *“To let my loving Savior work in me His will, my sanctification, is what I would live for by His grace. Abiding, not striving nor struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power...resting in the love of an almighty Savior, in the joy of a complete salvation.”*

Q: What does it look like to move from striving to abiding? (Psalm 37:4-7)

1. Delight yourself in the Lord
2. Commit your way to the Lord
3. Trust in the Lord
4. Wait on the Lord

Response:

1. Come to the table and cease striving.