



DAY 34



## PREPARATION

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**“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

**John 1:9-13**

Jesus has been living and breathing on the earth for 30 years. The time has come for Him to begin His earthly ministry. John paints a very realistic and honest assessment of the reception and recognition that Jesus had... small. Verse 10 is a scathing indictment of the people near and present with Jesus. They missed it. They should have known to be looking and listening for the work of God and promise to them. Jesus came to His own. Leon Morris says, “The Word did not go where He could not have expected to be known. He came home, where the people should have known Him”. By and large, there was an indifference to the presence of the Word. Much like today’s culture, right? The busyness, distractions, and stresses of the holiday season for many, overshadow the hope and joy the Light came to provide in the human heart. And many this Christmas season will yet again, miss Him- maybe not just from rejection or defiance, but from indifference or apathy. The cost is the same. Emptiness.

Isolation. Darkness. Death. However, there is good news! Some did receive and believe. Some will receive and believe. If His promises are true, He is with us! He is alive! He is near!

This Christmas season: Will you search for Him? Will you beg Him to draw near? Will you regularly read the advent scriptures in this book? Will you pray with hope and joy? Will you welcome the Light and Word into your heart and home?

The conclusion of God's coming to earth is not the tragedy of rejection, but rather the grace of acceptance. Will you find and receive that grace and gift this season?

*"Lord give us grace to find and know You. We confess our apathy and busyness. Help us know and love you more deeply during this season in which we should praise You for having kept Your promise and sent the true Light into the world. We thank You for Jesus and for the salvation from our sin that He provides!" Amen*

– SCOTT LANE –

EXECUTIVE PASTOR, MINISTRY

