



DAY 20



“JOY OF EVERY LONGING HEART”

**“Seek the Lord while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way and the
unrighteous man his thoughts;
and let him return to the Lord,
and He will have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”**

Isaiah 55: 6-7

As I pondered these verses and prayed over them, God softly whispered the line in the title above from my favorite Advent hymn, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” into my mind. We were created with longing hearts, so that we might be directed to seek out the Lord. Many of us attempt to fulfill this yearning with such worldly objectives as wealth, renown, career success, or even the love and acknowledgement of another human being. There is nothing inherently wrong with worldly measures of success. However, this year many of us have discovered their insufficiency as the objects of our hearts’ desires, as we have watched them crumble when tested by a pandemic and political warfare. When we seek to fulfill the longing of our hearts with these earthly gains, we will inevitably draw short of the joy that can only be found in Jesus Christ. If we become consumed

with the world's treasures, we are electing to pursue temporary gratification over an opportunity of eternal significance. Wherever you may find yourself during this season of holy tension and anticipation, seek God and His mercy with an eager assurance of the joy He will bring to your longing heart.

1. What am I seeking after today that cannot replace the joy that comes from Christ alone?
2. Am I prepared to seek forgiveness for unrighteous thoughts or habits that may be obstructing my ability to turn fully toward the Lord?

Heavenly Father, I repent of my sinful ways and my unrighteous thoughts. Please extend Your abundant compassion and forgive me for allowing such things to separate me from You. Prepare me, this Advent Season, to lay aside these obstructions and to seek You with undivided attention, and to know the true joy that only You can bring to my longing heart. Amen.

– ANDREA HENDERSON –

