



Advent (4th Sunday) – The King is Coming!

December 19/20, 2018

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But you, O Bethlehem..., who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

Connections Stories / Opening Prayer

Opening Conversation, Background & History:

- Discuss the phrase “*Great things come in small packages*” ...
- *Micah* means “*Who is like the LORD?*” “Minor” prophet of OT and contemporary of Isaiah. Proclaims coming destruction, but who clearly points to Bethlehem and the coming Messiah.
- Context: The time of the kings and apostate unfaithfulness, the coming destruction by God through Assyria and Babylon, and the coming rescue of the King of Creation.
- Coming enemies / coming Davidic Kingdom – themes of judgment & deliverance, *justice* and *righteousness* (same root).

Bible Study: *Lectio Divina* (“Divine Reading”)

PART 1

Step #1: Read Micah 5:2-5a. Quietly reflect on the text.

Step #2: Re-Read Micah 5:2-5a. What is God saying about Himself, His Kingdom? What does God promise? What are God’s expectations?

PART 2

Step #3: Read Luke 1:39-56. Quietly reflect on the text.

Step #4: Re-Read Luke 1:39-56. Compare Micah 5:2:5a & Luke 1:39-56. What jumps out at you?

Step #5: What might God saying to you as a member of His Kingdom right now... in the places, relationships and situations He has put you in? Do great things still come in small packages in you? How so?

Closing Prayer

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still
the dear Christ enters in.

A Joyous Christmas to you and yours as we wait for the
King to come again!