

Simply Christmas



Che Jesus,

They told me that you came back to be born every Christmas.

Man, you're crazy!

...with this stubborn gesture of coming back every Christmas
you are trying to tell us something:

That the revolution that all proclaim begins first of all in
each one's heart,

That it doesn't mean only changing structures but changing
selfishness for love.

That we have to stop being wolves and return to being
brothers and sisters,

That we...begin to work seriously for
individual conversion and social change

That will give to all the possibility of having bread,
education, freedom, and dignity.

That you have a message that's called the Gospel,

And a Church, and that's us—

A Church that wants to be a servant of all,

A Church that knows because God became human
one Christmas

there is no other way to love God but to love all people.

If that's the way it is, Jesus, come to me this Christmas,

Come to my country,

Come to the world of men and women.

And first of all, come to my heart.

Anonymous,
Cordoba, Argentina at Christmas, 1970

The least we
can do is make
his coming not
more difficult...
than the earth
makes it for
spring when it
wants to come.

Rainer Maria Rilke

You must be men and women
of ceaseless hope,
because only tomorrow
can today's human and
Christian promise be realized;
and every tomorrow
will have its own tomorrow,
world without end.
Every human act, every Christian act,
is an act of hope.
But that means you must be
men and women of the present,
you must live this moment—
really live it, not just endure it—
because this very moment,
for all its imperfection and
frustration, because of its
imperfection and frustration,
is pregnant
with all sorts of possibilities,
is pregnant with the future,
is pregnant with love,
is pregnant with Christ.

Walter J. Burghardt □

An Examination of Conscience For Advent

Where in my life do I need the miracle of Jesus' **healing**?

- Has my anger, judgement, or temper hurt those around me?
- Have I allowed work, hobbies, or other activities to rule my life instead of God?
- Am I able to share with Jesus the parts of myself that need his healing touch?

Where in my life do I need the miracle of Jesus' **generosity**?

- Have I given my time and gifts freely to the service of others?
- Have I cared for the poor and the needy?
- Do I commit myself in tangible ways to the creation of a more just society?

Where in my life do I need the miracle of Jesus' **love**?

- Do I let Jesus love all of me, even the parts that I am not proud of?
- Do I share that healing love with others who are in need of it?
- Do I invite Jesus to be present in my daily interactions with those I love and those I meet?

Where in my life do I need the miracle of Jesus' **companionship**?

- Have I allowed time to connect with God?
- Have I created space in my family or community to learn about Jesus?
- Do I look for Jesus into my daily life?

Where in my life do I need the miracle of Jesus' **wisdom**?

- Do I follow Jesus in times of conflict at home or work?
- Do I ask Jesus to share his wisdom when I am faced with a difficult decision?
- Have I invited Jesus to change my heart and mind?

IT IS NOT TRUE that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can be peacemakers.

This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions, and your old shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this Earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the Life of the world.

by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. from
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