

## \*~The First Sunday of Advent~\*

Sunday, November 28th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### Born to Die

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we will be lighting the first candle to remind us

We chose- to be born, to die



When God created the world His crowning glory was man. God created man in His image so that He could have a relationship with us ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)). But we blew it. Adam and Eve sinned and the relationship was broken ([Genesis 3](#)). God had said that they could live in the Garden of Eden, walking in relationship with God, taking care of the animals and plants, not having to work for their food, but eating anything they wanted ([Genesis 2:8-9](#)). Except one thing: the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said that if they ate of it, they would die ([Genesis 2:16-17](#)). Adam and Eve allowed satan to deceive them; he told them that they would not die, but would become like God. They ate. They now knew not only good, which came from God, but evil had now entered the world, and the world would never be the same ([Genesis 3](#)). They had never known evil before; only the love of God. Now evil was in the world, and the relationship between God and man had changed. The eating of the fruit caused a change in all of us, like a change in our DNA ([Romans 5:12-19](#)). It's like we are now born with a terminal disease, which gives us a sinful nature, making it hard for us to choose not to do and say things we know we shouldn't ([Romans 3:23](#)). We live here on earth for a while, but we will all die ([Hebrews 9:27](#), [Romans 6:23](#)) because of our sinful nature. That didn't stop God from loving us, though. He had a plan to fix things, and it starts at Christmas.

This is the first Sunday of Advent and this year as we prepare for Christmas, we will be looking at the "The Choices" that lead to Christmas on Sundays, and during the week, we will be looking at how Jesus' birth foreshadows His death, who He is, and our relationship with Him.

This first Sunday of Advent, please light the first candle as we remember We chose- to be born to die.

## Monday – Pregnant with Hope

Monday, November 29th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

**Thought:**



We wait in hope for the Lord, like Mary waiting for the birth of her precious first born Son so the Israelites waited for their Saviour. They had grown up hearing all the Prophecies about His coming. They were waiting in hope that He would come and save them from bondage to sin and oppressing Nations ([Psalm 33:20-22](#)). At His death, Jesus' followers felt that the hope they had in Jesus being that Saviour, had died with Him. Maybe Jesus wasn't the Saviour they had waited for. They became disillusioned and confused, feeling lost and betrayed. But then Sunday was still coming.

Are you pregnant with hope about the future ([Psalm 130:5-6](#))? Are you excited about what is coming? Or are your eyes focused on the problems you are facing right now? Do you see that God has a plan for your life, or are you drowning in problems you can't fix yourself? Are you disillusioned or waiting in anticipation of God's next step? God does have a plan; it may not make sense to you now, but if you hang on to God and trust Him, He will work out everything for the good of those who believe in Him ([Romans 8:28](#)). Don't worry; Christmas is coming. God's plan is about to start.

## Tuesday – Son of Man – Understanding

Tuesday, November 30th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

**Thought:**



Jesus was the Son of Man. His Mother, Mary, was an ordinary woman; not rich not famous, just willing and very human. She had the same hopes and fears the rest of us have, and her Son was also human. Jesus had flesh and blood like the rest of us, He prayed ([Mark 1:35](#)), He worked ([John 5:17](#)), He played, ate, ([Matthew 9:10](#)) and slept ([Matthew 8:24](#)). He was tempted to sin (but didn't) ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)). He was rejected ([Mark 8:31](#)) and betrayed ([Matthew 26:47-49](#)). He loved ([John 11:5](#), [John 13:23](#)) and was loved ([John 21:16](#)). His heart broke, He cried ([John 11:35](#)), He was afraid and upset ([Mark 1:35](#)). He bled and died ([John 19:30-35](#)). He was just as human as the rest of us.

Jesus understands what you are going through because He, too, has gone through it. He became human so He could die in our place ([Hebrews 2:14](#)), and so He could be our High Priest standing before God on our behalf ([Hebrews 4:13-16](#), [Hebrews 6:19-20](#)). So do not worry you are not alone. God does understand ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Hang on to Jesus, and He will see you through. He was Human too ([Hebrews 2:14-19](#)).

## Wednesday – Son of God – Sacrifice

Wednesday, December 01st, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Jesus was not only a human being, He was also God. ([Hebrews 1:3](#)) God chose Mary while she was still a virgin to become pregnant with Jesus ([Luke 1:30-35](#)), so that everyone would

know that Jesus' Father was God ([Hebrews 1:5-6](#)). God knew that only a perfect human could die in our place, and as there are no perfect humans, He became one. God became a man but He was still God; God says so ([Hebrews 1:8-9](#)). He knew the plan, He knew why He was here, He knew what He had to do. He came to die in our place. It was the only way for our relationship to be restored: Jesus was born to die. And when He died, the people guarding the cross while Jesus died, said "Surely He, was the Son of God!" ([Matthew 27:54](#))

Our God was willing to give up everything for a relationship with us, including His only Son ([John 3:16](#)). What are you willing to give up for a relationship with Him? What is He asking you to give up? Your lifestyle? Your job? Your home? Your country? Your family? Your friends? Your money? I'm not saying that God is asking you to give up these things, only would you be willing if He did ask? God sacrificed everything for you. What will you sacrifice for Him? What are you willing to give God for Christmas this year?

## Thursday – Census – Called to be Counted

Thursday, December 02nd, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Just before Jesus' birth, Caesar Augustus decided to order a census. Everyone had to register; each person had to be counted and written in the book so Rome would know how many people there were from each family. The number of men, women and children all had to be documented ([Luke 2:1-5](#)). Each person was commanded to register in their hometown, so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to be registered; to be counted.

When we believe in Jesus and His death and resurrection, and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we too will be counted. The Bible says our names will be written in the book of life. Those whose names are written there will have life. Those who

are not are still going to die for what they have done, because they did not accept the gift of God for life ([Revelation 20:11-16](#)). Those of us who have accepted God's gift go to Heaven with God, because Jesus already paid the price for our sins. Which will you choose? Life or death? Is your name in the book of life? The gift is there for the taking, just believe that God paid the price for you and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour. At that exact moment, God stops, and writes your name in the book of life. Have you been counted? Maybe this Christmas season is the time for you to accept Jesus' gift. What do you think?

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Friday – Bethlehem – Insignificance

Friday, December 03rd, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Bethlehem was a small, insignificant town; nothing all that special about it. And yet, it was chosen by God to be the birthplace of His one and only Son. Was it just by chance that Jesus was born there? No. God said that Jesus would be born there hundreds of years before His birth ([Micah 5:2](#) [Matthew 2:6](#)). Wow, what an honour! Why was this town was chosen? Why not Jerusalem, or Rome, for that matter?

Why were you chosen to be saved ([Ephesians 1:11](#))? Are you someone of influence, or like most of us, just an ordinary person doing your best? Well, that is who God usually chooses: the seemingly insignificant. That way, His power is shown through us. He chooses the weak to shame the strong ([1Corinthians 1:26-28](#)). God comes to those who need Him; those who will choose to do things with God's help, giving God the glory instead of taking it for themselves. Jesus, as well, seemed insignificant at his birth. He was poor, and few people even noticed Him ([Isaiah 53:1-2](#)). When He grew up and tried to teach others about God's plan, they killed Him because they didn't believe that the prophecies they had heard all their lives could be fulfilled by this ordinary man. People didn't recognize Him because He came in a form they didn't

expect. But God can do anything through an ordinary person who is willing to be affected and used by Him. Are you willing. or will you make God find someone else to do His work? Do you want God to turn to you, a seemingly insignificant person, to do great things for Him? What is God asking of you this Christmas? Are you willing to do it?

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Saturday – Riding a Donkey – Peace

Saturday, December 04th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Tradition says, although the Bible does not say this, that Mary rode a donkey to enter Bethlehem. This is logical, because it was a common form of transportation of the day, and being as pregnant as Mary was, it made sense. At the time she entered Bethlehem, because she was pregnant with Jesus. So in a sense, He, too, entered Bethlehem on a donkey.

Jesus also entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding a donkey. This was a prophecy fulfilled. God told the Israelites hundreds of years earlier that this would happen ([Zechariah 9:9](#)), and it did ([Matthew 21:5](#)). Kings rode horses if they were going into battle. If they were arriving in a city bringing peace, they came on a donkey. Are you looking for peace this Christmas season? Jesus comes not to bring conflict or condemnation, He comes to bring peace. If you are looking for peace this Christmas season, look to Jesus; focus your eyes on Him. He is the one who brings peace. He tells you what is important and what to focus on. When you do as Jesus says, then, and only then, will peace fill your life. Even if there is chaos all around you, with your eye on Jesus, you will be at peace ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## \*~The Second Sunday of Advent~\*

Sunday, December 05th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, and we will light the second candle to remind us of God's Choice: someone else would be born to die



The relationship between God and man was broken, but God had a plan.

In order to restore our relationship with God, defeat Satan, and save us from our sinful nature, blood had to be shed ([Hebrews 9:22](#)). So God created a plan. There are a few amazing things about this plan. One was that God knew we would sin before He created us. Another is that He already had the plan to save us figured out before He created us. And He still created us ([Isaiah 46:10](#)). Wow!

Then God needed people to understand that the sins they were committing had a price. They couldn't just sin and get away with it. There was a cost: death. God introduced the sacrifice of animals to show this to the people ([Leviticus 9:7](#)). When people sinned, they had to bring an animal to the tabernacle and have the priests kill it, and pour out its blood on the altar before God, to atone for their sin ([Leviticus 17:11](#)). They had to bring their best animal; one with defects was not accepted ([Deuteronomy 15:21, Deuteronomy 17:1](#)). The problem with animal sacrifices is that they could only atone or cover the sin, they couldn't remove it. This wasn't good enough for God. He wanted the sins gone; the price paid in full. He wanted the relationship restored to where it was before sin entered the world. Animals couldn't give that, but God's plan wasn't finished yet. He decided on a plan, a plan that boggles our minds when we think of it, one that makes no sense to us. The God of the universe, the all-powerful God, the all-seeing, all-knowing God, chose to send His Son to die in our place ([Hebrews 9:13-14](#)). How can this be? How could God love us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His Son so He could have a relationship with us? We can't even really fathom that kind of love. It makes no sense to us. Most of us hesitate to give of our money to the poor, or our time to others, etc. How can we possibly fathom being loved so much, that someone would give the thing they love the most so we could walk and talk with them? But in order for God to reach

us, He chose to send His Son to die in our place once and for all ([John 3:16](#), [Romans 5:8](#)). One sacrifice to cover all sins; past, present and future. The price for our sin was huge, but nothing less was good enough for God. He wanted you and me. He wanted a close relationship with us with nothing; not walls, cliffs, sins or Satan to separate us. God was willing to give it all for us to be able to walk with Him again.

So now, this second Sunday of Advent, please light the second candle as we remember God's Choice – someone else would be born to die.

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Monday – No Room

Monday, December 06th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### Thought:



No room in the inn, no room in our hearts. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they were hoping there would be a room for them to stay in, but other travelers had already filled the rooms that were there. It's not that people didn't want to take them in; they had good intentions, just no more room. They did supply them with a roof, but with the animals ([Luke 2:7](#)). When Jesus grew up, the people still had no room for Him in their hearts. They rejected His teaching and rejected what He said about who He was. They had waited hundreds of years for their Saviour, and when He came, they didn't want to see Him for who He was. They thought He was insane, a blasphemer, a liar. They killed Him because of it, even though He had never done anything wrong. He was found innocent by the court of the time ([Luke 23:4](#)) as well as by one of the men who died with Him ([Luke 23:40-42](#)).

In our relationship with Jesus, do we do the same thing? Do we give Him the parts of us that are left over? Not the run of the family home, welcome and warm, but off in the corner. Do we give Him all of ourselves, or what is convenient? It's

easy to live for God at church, but how about at school or work? How about Saturday night when you invite your friend over for a party? Is Jesus invited to join in, or is he left in the in the stable outside? He was willing to die so He could be let in. Do you have room in your heart and home? Will He be invited to your Christmas celebration or will He be left outside?

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Tuesday – Cave – Trapped – Freedom

Tuesday, December 07th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



The Bible is not clear as to where Jesus was born, only that after His birth He was placed in a manger, which is where animals eat, so it is assumed (but not known for sure) that He was born in a stable ([Luke 2:7](#)). If you travel to Israel, to the place the Israelites believe He was born, you will see it's a cave. He came into the world in a cave, and after he died, He was placed in a cave to be buried ([Mark 15:46](#)). But He didn't stay in either one. His family left the cave of His birth to move into a house where the Magi found Him ([Matthew 2:11](#)). And He rose from the cave of His tomb ([Matthew 28:5-7](#)), defeating death and satan in one powerful blow.

Do you feel that you have been trapped in a cave that you can't figure out how to get out of ? Do not fear; whatever is keeping you a prisoner can be overcome. Just ask Jesus what the first step is. He will show you the way; He has done it before. There is nothing that can prevent Him from being there for you; not stone walls or even death. Nothing can defeat Him. Nothing can stop him from finding a way to reach you, or to help you out of your own cave ([Luke 1:37](#)). But He will not come without your permission. Do you give it, or would you rather stay in your cave? The choice is yours. If Jesus set you free, you will be free indeed ([John 8:36](#)).

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Wednesday – Come as a Child

Wednesday, December 08th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Jesus was the Son of God, and yet He came as a child. He is God Almighty. All-powerful, all-knowing, All-loving. He spoke the universe into existence, as well as the butterfly. And yet he came to earth as a dependent child. He came needing to be fed when He had the power to feed thousands ([Matthew 14:14-21](#)). He came needing to be carried when He would carry the cross ([John 19:16-18](#)), and more importantly, our sins ([Isaiah 53:6](#)). He came as a child; vulnerable, weak, dependent, humble ([Philippians 2:8](#)), obedient, and asked us for the same. He asked us to come to Him as a child ([Matthew 18:1-5](#)); Weak, allowing Him to be our strength ([1 Thessalonians 3:13](#)). Dependent on Him for all we need ([Philippians 4:19](#)). Obedient in serving Him ([Luke 4:8](#)). Humble, putting other before ourselves (Ephesians 4:2), and for this He gives us everything we need. Are you willing to come to Him like a little child? Watch the children this Christmas, and learn from them how God asks us to live.

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Thursday – Wrapped in Cloth – Restricted

Thursday, December 09th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in what were called swaddling clothes. It was the practice at the time, and is still used sometimes today. You wrapped the baby tightly in cloth so that they can't move. It supposedly helps them feel secure, and as they struggle against the restriction, they build up their muscles ([Luke 2:7](#)). Jesus was also wrapped up in grave clothes after His death ([Mark 15:46](#)). Are you restricting Jesus from working in your life? Do you allow Him to work through you or do you try to do what you think He wants in your own? It won't work, you know. The things He asks us to do are beyond our ability on purpose; not so we will fail, but so we will relax and let Him do it through us. There is nothing we can't do if we just stop trying to do it ourselves and let Him do it through us ([Philippians 4:13](#)). Do you want to see miracles, wonders, lives changed? God can use you to do these things. He says you can do even more than He did when He was on earth if you let His Spirit work through you ([John 14:12](#)), instead of restricting Him and tying His hands. This Christmas you have a great opportunity to let God work through you to touch others lives. Will you give Him permission to work, or will you restrict what He can do through you?

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Friday – Hay, Thorns, Forgiveness

Friday, December 10th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

**Thought:**



When He was born, Jesus was placed on prickly hay in a manger. No beautiful crib with soft bedding for Him. He was probably poked by it and maybe even scratched by the hard bits ([Luke 2:7](#)). What kind of bed was this for the King of Kings? He deserved the best, but He accepted a manger. Just before He was killed, they placed a crown of thorns on His head. Once again, He received pain when He deserved honour ([Mark 15:16-18](#)), and yet He was never bitter. He only showed love to those around Him. His last words were "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" ([Luke 23:33-35](#)). Not only was He not bitter, but He showed His love for them even as they hurt Him. Have you hurt Jesus? Have you used His name in a way that shows disrespect, and not love and honour? Have you knowingly done things that you know would not please Him? Have you turned your back on Him, instead of lifting him up? We all have, in some way. Some of us have done things that we believe He could never forgive us for, and yet He says even today, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing" ([Hebrews 8:12](#)). Turn back to God ask for His forgiveness, and accept it ([1 John 1:9](#)), and learn to do things God's way again so Jesus will no longer have to say about you "Father forgive them", because the forgiveness is already yours ([Ephesians 1:7](#)).

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Saturday – Manger – Bread of Life

Saturday, December 11th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Yes, He was placed in a manger at His birth ([Luke 2:7](#)). "You will find Him in a manger the place where animals come to feed". They came to the manger, because they were hungry and found God. The night before He died, Jesus took bread and broke it saying "take and eat this, is my body. And the cup, drink. This is my blood" ([Matthew 26:26-29](#)). Are you hungry? Are you craving more out of life? Are you lonely, looking for relationship with a friend who will never fail you? Come to God and He will feed you. He will with His body, and blood, broken and spilled for you. Make it so you can have the relationship you hunger for, with God. Jesus is the Bread of life. If you come to Him you will never need to hunger for anything again ([John 6:35](#)).

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## \*~The Third Sunday of Advent~\*

Sunday, December 12th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, and we will be lighting the third candle to remind us of Jesus' Choice: I will be born to die.



The Plan was created, but would Jesus agree to it? Would He give up heaven to come to earth to die in our place? Would He give up His throne to be born in a stable? Would He give it all to die one of the most painful deaths man has ever created? Will He die on the cross to save us from sin and death? The answer is YES! Jesus loved us enough to die on our place so we could live forever in a relationship with God ([1 Peter 3:18](#)) Wow! It's so incredible that Jesus chose to come. He came willingly. He wanted to die, so we could live ([John 10: 17-18](#)). The Son of God came to earth, not expecting to be served, but to serve and die in our place ([Mark 10:45](#)). Though sin came on all of us because Adam sinned we are freed from it by the death and resurrection of Jesus ([1 Corinthians 15:22](#)).

Jesus came to earth as a man ([Hebrews 10:5-7](#)) He lived a normal human life raised by parents and with brothers and sisters. He had the same problems and struggles as we do so He could understand what we go through but He never

sinned He remained the perfect sacrifice ([Matthew 26:28](#)). This is not the end though Jesus didn't stay dead. God raised Him from the dead, so He not only died for our sins, but He came back to life ([Acts 2:24](#)) to defeat death, so we could live forever; and all this defeated satan and his plan to keep us in sin and death. 1 John 3:18 says "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work". The plan is completed. It is finished, right? Or is it? The price has been paid we are free right? No, there is one more step. We will discuss that next Sunday.

For now, this Third Sunday of Advent, please light the third candle as we remember Jesus' Choice – I will be born to die.

## Monday – Angels – Tell the World

Monday, December 13th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



An angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Saviour of the world before she became pregnant. They also announced to the shepherds that the Son of God had been born, and then a multitude of angels came praising God ([Luke 2:8-15](#)). The Sunday after Jesus died an angel announced that He had risen from the dead ([Luke 24:22-24](#)). He had defeated death, and brought life to all who would follow Him. Will you now announce "Christ is here" to your friends and family as the angels did for Christ long ago? Will you let them know the truth about God and His plan to save us? Will you spread the good news, or be content to let those around you die because you were afraid to say anything that might upset them? The plan has been completed. The way to heaven is available to all who believe. Will you tell others, or remain quiet? ([Matthew 28:19-20](#))

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Tuesday – Shepherds – Protection

Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### Thought:



Why shepherds? Of all the people God could have made the announcement to, why shepherds? The announcement could have been made to kings or priests, but God chose shepherds. Why would He do that? They were dirty and poor; there was nothing all that special about them, was there? Yes, there was: they had the same job as God. I know what you are thinking: "what?! You are comparing my God to a dirty shepherd?", but it wasn't me that made the comparison, it was God Himself. God calls Himself the Good Shepherd ([Psalm 23](#)) and like every good shepherd, He is willing to die for His sheep. Shepherds risk their lives to protect their sheep from lions, bears, cliffs, and rushing water. They will do whatever is necessary to protect their sheep and to provide them with everything they need. This is proven when Jesus died for our sins He was willing to give even His life so that we could have a relationship with Him. Are you willing to be a Good shepherd to your friends? Will you show them God by the way you live? Will you put their needs before yours? Will you witness to them by your lifestyle? Will you be Christ to those around you? You may be the only Christian they meet. Will you stand out as someone that has what others are looking for? How will you act this Christmas that will show people who Jesus is? Ask God and He will show you how.

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Wednesday – The Lamb – Hearing God's Voice

Wednesday, December 15th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

**Thought:**



I admit that the Bible does not say that the shepherds brought Jesus a lamb as a gift, but that to me would be the logical gift for them to bring. Being poor, they had little else to bring, and knowing He was a king and the Son of God, I doubt they came without bringing something. Besides, what better gift could they bring the Lamb of God? Why was He called the Lamb? Because He was born to die. He was the sacrifice God sent to save us from our sins. Just like the lambs that were sacrificed at the temple and the tabernacle before it so people could be set free from their sins, Jesus became that sacrifice for us. One sacrifice, for all people, for all time. All you have to do is accept His gift.

The Bible also calls us lambs or sheep. It says that sheep know the voice of the shepherd ([John 10:27](#)). Do you hear God speaking to you, telling you how He wants you to act and what to do? Is God teaching you about who He is and what He is like? God speaks to us in a few different ways. He speaks to us through the Bible, as we spend time prayerfully reading His word and studying it. Sometimes the words seem to almost jump off the page, letting us know that this is God's message for us at that time. God speaks to us through others. God may give someone a message for us a prophetic word, or a word of knowledge (I would be careful who you listen to, though, and make sure it is confirmed in other ways). God speaks to us through dreams and visions ([Acts 2:17](#)), and He also speaks to us in a still small voice. Have you had these experiences? Do you know how to hear His voice?

According to Mark Virkler, of [Christian Leadership University](#), "Hearing God's voice is as simple as, quieting yourself down, fixing your eyes on Jesus, tuning to spontaneity and journaling." Okay, this sounds simple, but it does take practice and you will get better at it over time if you work at it. Mark has a whole university course "Communion with God" entirely on this one topic of how to hear God speak to you, which I highly recommend. He finds the steps in Habakkuk 2:1-2, but here is a quick explanation if you are interested

Quiet yourself down – find a quiet place with few distractions, get comfortable, then take some deep breaths and quiet yourself inside and out.

Fix your eyes on Jesus – close your eyes and look for Jesus. It might help to picture a Bible story He is in, just to get started

Tune to spontaneity – listen for any words that come in to your head.

Journal – write down what you heard as you hear it, and then give it to someone who you trust and you know hears God's voice, and ask them if they think it was God speaking to you.

I swear this does get easier with practice, and it is so worth the effort.

## Thursday – Defeated Death

Thursday, December 16th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



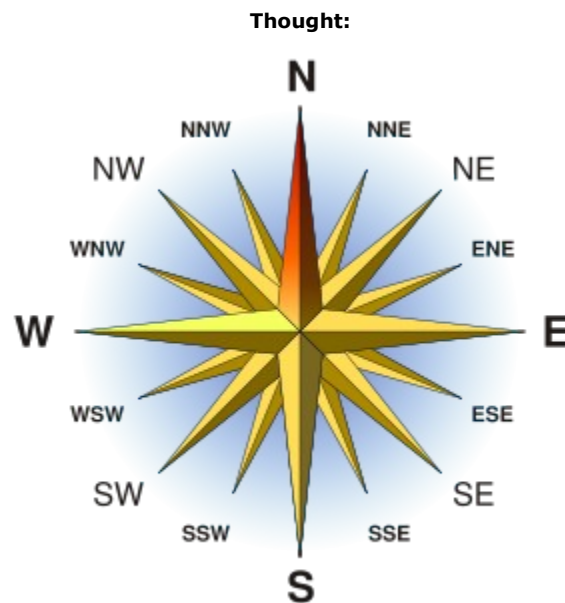
Herod was afraid that He would lose His kingdom to this new king, whom the Magi said would be born. He feared losing everything and would do anything to protect what He had at any cost. He was willing to fight against God to keep it. So He decided to kill all the baby boys under the age of two to stop it from happening. No one would take away His power; not even a little child. But God warned Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and go to Egypt so Herod couldn't find Him ([Matthew 2:1-18](#)).

Jesus was crucified; died and buried. He was dead; there was no rescue this time It was over. Or was it? There was an earthquake; the stone rolled away from the tomb and Jesus was alive again ([Matthew 28:1-6](#)). Death was defeated for the second time in His life. This time, He defeated it for all of us. We no longer have to fear death. If we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, our Body will die but our spirit never will. Thank you, Lord.

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Friday – The Star – Guidance

Friday, December 17th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)



The Magi were lead to Jesus by a star ([Mathew 2:1-2](#)). It is believed, but not known for sure, that the star was actually Mars, Jupiter and Saturn getting very close together in the constellation Pisces. This grouping would have been considered a star at that time. This would mean to The Magi, who were astronomers, that a *great* king was to be born in Israel. If it had been one star, everyone would have seen it, not just the Magi, and the Magi would not have had to ask where to find the baby (as described [here](#)).

There was a light to show the Magi the way to Jesus at His birth and Jesus calls Himself the Light of the World ([John 8:12](#)) showing people the way ([John 14:6](#)). He lights up our life path so we know what we need to do and the direction we need to go. Are you confused about where to go from here, or what to do next? Ask Jesus to light the path that He wants you to use, and He will. Wait and watch in prayer and He will show you the way. Are you trying to find God? Are you looking for a

closer relationship with Him? The only way to do that is to follow Jesus. To accept Him as your Lord and Saviour and learn how He lived by reading the Bible, then asking Him to show you the way.

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Saturday – The Star – Light in Darkness

Saturday, December 18th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



The Star shone in the night, and although only the Magi recognized what it meant, everyone saw its light. Darkness had come on the world not only physically, but also spiritually. Jesus came to bring light back into the world ([John 8:12](#)). The world had been living in darkness, in evil, but things were about to change. The Light of God had arrived and the way out of darkness was here ([Isaiah 60:1-2](#)). With Jesus' death and resurrection, the darkness has been defeated. Isn't it amazing that one tiny star or one small lit candle can defeat darkness? You can't see anything, and then the small candle is lit, and the things around you start to become clear. Jesus' birth was like that; a glimmer of light, a glimmer of hope in a dark world. We start seeing God, believing in His plan. As a man, He taught us about who He was, about God's plan, about who we are according to God, and how we are to live, and the light got brighter. We started seeing what we are doing wrong and start living better. When we are living for God, living God's way, peace enters our lives ([John 14:27](#)). Darkness faded a little more as more people started to believe and follow Him. Then Jesus died and rose again and darkness, satan, and sin were defeated and the light burned bright. Darkness, the war, satan, and evil had lost. With the coming of the light, lost its hold. There is still darkness in those who don't believe, and between good and evil, the war is on, but the light is shining and the shadows fading, and we know God has won the battle. Soon, Jesus will return to take us from this

world ([John 14:1-3](#)) to a new world where Jesus' light fills every corner, and nothing is hidden ever again ([Revelation 21:23](#), [Revelation 22:5](#)). Evil and satan will be gone taking darkness and death with them, never to return. Praise God, Jesus, the Light of the World has come ([John 1:9](#)).

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## \*~The Fourth Sunday of Advent~\*

Sunday, December 19th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

**Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will be lighting the fourth candle to remind us that We Can**

**Choose – Born to Live**



Was it enough that Jesus died for our sin? Now that it is done, is sin gone? Is our relationship restored? I'm sorry to say that there is one more step. We have to choose to accept the gift. We have to believe that Jesus died for our sins and that they are now gone. We have to admit that we have sinned, and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour ([1 John 1:9](#)). Once we have accepted the gift, we will become children of God, and our relationship will be restored ([John 1:12](#)). We will have crossed over from death to life ([John 5:24](#)).

Is this really the only way? Yes. It is impossible for us to earn our salvation. It can only be received as a gift of grace from God ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Titus 3:5](#)). Then, and only then, is our sin gone. Then, and only then, is our relationship restored. Like all relationships, though, this one too requires work. You now have a relationship, but how strong it is depends on the effort you make in talking to him, reading his word and serving Him

So the question is: what will you choose? Will you choose death, or life? Will you choose to accept God's gift and life in relationship with Him, or will you live your own way? If you choose God, you can pray a simple prayer such as:

"God, I am sorry for the things I have done that hurt You and broke our relationship. Please forgive me. I love you, and I accept Your gift of Jesus dying in my place, and I choose You as my Lord and Saviour. Amen"

For this Fourth Sunday of Advent, please light the fourth candle as we remember: We Can Choose – born to live.

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## Monday – The Journey – The Way

Monday, December 20th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### Thought:



The Magi saw the star when Jesus was born, and set out to find Him. The journey took around two years, maybe longer, to get to the house that Jesus was then living in. This was no easy trip; it went through some difficult country, but they felt it was worth it to meet the King of Kings; to see Him with their own eyes. At Jesus' death, people followed Jesus as He carried his cross from Jerusalem to Golgotha where He was crucified. This too was a hard journey. They were confused and hurting as they watched the one they thought had come to save them be killed for reasons that, at that time, made no sense to them. The journey was hard. The people would have ridiculed them as well as Jesus because they followed Him, and yet they walked. They had to see Jesus no matter the cost

Do you have the courage to follow the light, even if it hurts? Even when it's hard? When your friends ridicule you for it? When the price seems too high, will you follow? Will you stand with God when the world turns against Him and you, or will you take the easy road and hide in the crowd, and follow them ([Matthew 7:13-14](#))? How is your journey? Are you weary? He will give you rest ([Matthew 11:28](#), [Isaiah 40:30-31](#)). Are you unsure where to go next? He will guide you ([John 14:6](#)). Do you need protection? He will supply it ([Psalm 5:11](#)). Do you need food? It will be given ([Matthew 6:25-34](#)). Trust in Him and follow Him. Jesus calls himself the Way ([John 14:6](#)); keep your eyes on Him and He will show you the way through, whatever the issues are in your life. He will give you what you need; maybe not the way you want Him to, or in your timing, but He will supply your every need at just the time you really need it ([Philippians 4:19](#)). You may not have

everything you want this Christmas, but if you focus on Jesus, He will show you the way. Will you trust and follow Him this Christmas?

## Tuesday – Gold – King of Kings

Tuesday, December 21st, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



When the Magi arrived at the house where Jesus was living, they gave Him three gifts ([Matthew 2:11](#)): the first was gold. Gold is a gift that, at the time, was given to kings. The Magi were declaring the baby Jesus a king. While the people around them in Bethlehem saw a new baby, the Magi saw the King of Kings. At Jesus' death, the people saw Him as a criminal, but Pilate placed a sign on the cross saying "King of the Jews" – not just in one language, but in three, so that all who were there could read it ([John 19:19-20](#)). The centurion positioned at the cross also cried out at His death "he is the King of the Jews" ([Matthew 27:54](#)). Do you accept Him as the King of Kings? Do you accept His authority? Or do you hang on tight to your own? When He asks you to do something that makes no sense to you at the time, will you do it anyway because you trust Him and accept His authority? Do you believe that God has your best interests in mind, and that of others, even when you don't understand it? God sees the big picture; you see only your small part in it. Will you give up your power and your need to control and trust in His plan? Let Jesus be your King of Kings this Christmas.

## Wednesday – Frankincense – Worship

Wednesday, December 22nd, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



The Magi also brought frankincense, which is a type of incense ([Matthew 2:11](#)). Incense is a symbol in the Bible of the worship praise and prayers of the saints ([Revelation 8:4](#), [Psalm 141:2](#)). By giving it to Jesus at His birth, they were saying that He is worthy of worship and praise. Revelation tells us that because of what Jesus did by being willing to die in our place, saving us from our sins and defeating satan, He is worthy of praise and worship. At the end times, those who are with Him will sing praises to Him. ([Revelation 5:8-14](#)). Do you see Jesus as worthy of worship and praise? Will you take the time to praise Him this Christmas season for all He has done for you? Will you put Him in His rightful place at your celebrations, or will they be focused on gifts and dinner instead? Will you worship God this Christmas?

## Thursday – Myrrh – Born to die

Thursday, December 23rd, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



The last of the gifts of the Magi was myrrh ([Matthew 2:11](#)). What a sad, but appropriate gift to give Jesus. Myrrh was the spice used to anoint the dead. The Magi were revealing to all who would see that this was the child born to die for their sins. After Jesus had been buried, women came to the tomb to anoint His body with spices ([Mark 16:1](#)). The Son of God, who gave up all He had in Heaven to come to earth and show the people how to restore their relationship with God; the baby that was the first Christmas present. Will you receive what He came to give you? Life with God. Jesus was born to die to give you the best Christmas present ever: the gift of life with God for eternity. Will you reject it as so many did then, and still do? Or will you accept the greatest gift ever given the gift of life with God for all time?

## Friday – The Gift – Love

Friday, December 24th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### **Thought:**



Why do we give gifts at Christmas? To remind us of the most precious gift of all; the first Christmas present, love. God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to become one of us to show us the way back to Him so we could have the relationship God always wanted us to have with Him. Christmas isn't just about the birth of a baby, it is the birth of a renewed and restored relationship with a God who loves us so much that there is nothing He is not willing to do to get us back. God gave His most precious Son for you ([John 3:16](#)). What are you giving God this Christmas? Is there a gift from Him under the tree? At Christmas we celebrate Jesus birthday, and yet we often give gifts to everyone but Him. We ask our friends and family what they want for Christmas and because we love them we do our best to give them what they want. Jesus wants *you*. Will you give Him yourself this Christmas?

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

## Saturday – New Birth, New Beginning, New Life

Saturday, December 25th, 2010 | Author: [admin](#)

### Thought:



Wow! The price has been paid. Death, sin and satan have been defeated. The wall that kept us from God has been torn down. We have chosen to follow God and have a relationship with Him. We have been freed from our sinful nature. Now what? The slate has been wiped clean. Like Jesus being born that first Christmas, we to have been born again ([1 Peter 1:23](#)). We have a new life, a new beginning. The past is gone and we can start fresh. The sins of your past have been removed and forgotten. Now what? Now we live our new life.

You need to start by trusting in the Lord with all of your heart, and He will show you the way ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)). Spend time reading His word so you can get to know Him better and understand how He wants you to live ([Joshua 1:8](#), [Psalm 119:9-11](#)). Spend time with other Christians, learning from them, supporting each other and encouraging each other ([Hebrews 10:25](#)). Life as a Christian is not easy; you will go through hard times, but God will not leave you. He will help you through ([Psalm 23:4](#), [Isaiah 43:1-3](#), [1 Corinthians 10:13](#)) and He will not let anything happen to you that you and God can't get through together. And know that everything that happens is somehow for your good, even if you can't see it now ([Romans 8:28](#)). So now go live for God!

**May God bless you all today, and through the new year!**

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

(Numbers 6:24-26, NIV)

Category: [Uncategorized](#)