

A Christmas Meditation

Reading Pope Benedict's writing about the Infancy narratives in his book titled Jesus of Nazareth, I find a source for meditation.

Writing about the Annunciation to Mary, Pope Benedict writes:

“Joy appears ... as the particular gift of the Holy Spirit, the true gift of the Redeemer.”

“The essential reason for the daughter of Zion to rejoice is stated: “the Lord is in your midst.”

At this time of Christmas we surely are meant to rejoice as Mary did. The reason is simple – the Lord is in our midst. This is a time to realize his coming, not just as an historical event to be commemorated. He has come to **us** personally and intimately. This must be a great joy for us.

How happy we must be that the Lord is in our midst. Do we ask, “Where do we find him?” Surely, in the Mass and Eucharist. Surely, “in us through our faith and Baptism.” He is the Father's “wonderful and unmistakable gift.”

Writing of the Birth of Jesus, Pope Benedict tells us to pause and reflect.

The Birth of Jesus “points toward the reversal of values found in the figure of Jesus Christ and his message. From the moment of his birth, he belongs outside the realm of what is important and powerful in worldly terms. Yet it is this unimportant and powerless child that proves to be the truly powerful one, the one on whom ultimately every thing depends. ... becoming a Christian is having to leave behind what everyone else thinks and wants, ... in order to enter the light of the truth of our being, and aided by that light to find the right path.”

Every day we are challenged by the power of the values of our time and culture. Every day we, as Christians, want to walk on the right path of truth. It is this path that leads us to Christ. Truth, as we have been taught it, has become the truth of our being. Its light is reflected in all the Christmas lights around us. Shall we not let them lead us to One, who is our Way, our Truth and our Life?

We journey on our way, hearing the invitation to come to Jesus to adore Him. Let us ask Mary to help us to come to Jesus with joy. Let us rejoice and give ***Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to people of good will. Amen.***

*With the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I send my best wishes,
Monsignor David Morrison*