

Moments *to* Treasure

Reflecting on the
ADVENTure

Creative
Communications
Sample



Dale Meyer

Introduction

Each moment of our lives is a treasure to keep, no matter what time of year it is, but moments during the season of Advent are meant to be treasured even more as we await the wonderful gift of the birth of our Savior on Christmas. These devotions are ponderings and musings from the ADVENTures of the author's life during this holy season of contemplation. Mary helps us to see what treasuring each moment looks like as she experiences the arrival of the Christ Child. We learn from her response to our Lord in these pages by taking to heart the divine messages and meaning behind the ADVENTures of our own lives.

But Mary treasured up all
these things and pondered
them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

Sunday, the First Week of Advent

We Wish to See Jesus

So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

John 12:21

I pray these little devotions lead you to yearn for Jesus as never before. My own spiritual life was immensely blessed by something Rev. Arnold Kuntz wrote. “Life narrows down, and crisis comes. Suddenly, only one thing matters, and there, in the narrow place, stands Jesus.”¹ Isn’t that the truth? “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10). Health problems, financial loss, the passing of loved ones, and ultimately the approach of your own death ... “Life narrows down.” A retired seminary professor, a man who knows Jesus, spoke about faith at the visitation for his wife, “It gets personal.”

“We wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21). Children count the days until Christmas. Parties are planned. Church invites more of your time. Advent isn’t about walking away from all the busy-ness, as if you could. Advent is about reorienting your thoughts as you go about all the duties of the holiday season. “One thing is necessary,” Jesus says (Luke 10:42). “We wish to see Jesus.” Will you make that your Advent goal?

Jesus, lead me into intense devotion this Advent, to focus on You as I’ve never done before. Amen.

Monday, the First Week of Advent

ADVENTure

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 6:68

Do you think of your life as an adventure?

Probably not; our adult lives are often routine, sometimes ho-hum. Remember when you were a child? Wide-eyed, you couldn't wait for Santa to come. It was an adventure then, but now you've graduated into maturity, and perhaps the routine of adult life has rubbed ho-hum into Advent. How can that be if you're a child of God? Might this new Advent be a time to rekindle your child-of-God sense of adventure?

The strange spelling "ADVENTure" is my invitation to you to thrill at what's ahead. Advent is not only preparation for the birth of Jesus, what we call His "first Advent." It's also about His "second Advent," when we'll see Him visibly at the end of time. "Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11-12). How we need Him now so that we'll arrive safely when the eternal day dawns! "His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home."² Our ADVENTure is filled with distractions from the goal, subtle temptations to confine Jesus to the crèche, but through what's ahead, "He will not leave you or forsake you" (1 Chronicles 28:20).

**Spirit of Jesus, invigorate me with the thrill of my life's journey to You.
Amen.**

Tuesday, the First Week of Advent

Then We Shall See Face to Face

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

Over the years we've heard a lot about Jesus. In our mind we see Him in the stories. First in the manger and finally in Gethsemane, Calvary, the empty tomb and on the Mount of Ascension. We think we've got the picture, but we don't, at least not with our eyes. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He withdrew His visible presence from us. "Though you do not now see him, you believe in him" (1 Peter 1:8).

"We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). As you hear Advent's stories of faith, keep in mind their purpose. "These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). One day trust in the Word will yield to sight. "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). You will actually see Jesus, see Him with your eyes. ADVENTure!

Dear Jesus, here is my trust. "I will be vindicated and will see Your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness" (Psalm 17:15). Amen; so shall it be! Amen.



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Lutheran Hour Speaker from 1989-2001 and current president of Concordia Seminary (St. Louis), Dr. Dale Meyer invites us on the ADVENTure of our lives in these daily devotions as we embark on the season of Advent, which beckons us to treasure, much as Mary did, the special moments when we come in contact with the presence of Christ as we prepare to celebrate his birth.

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