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Don't Forget Jesus

*Christmas is a special time
To reflect on Jesus Christ
The wonder of His lowly birth
Brings meaning to our lives*

*There really is no other reason
We celebrate this day
The birth of God's precious son
And the life He willingly gave*

*But so much seems to distract us
In the busy-ness of our lives
We lose our focus
in all the happenings
Not knowing, we leave out Christ*

*We lose sight of the true meaning
As we endlessly rush about
Trying to find that perfect gift
Seems to cloud our Saviour out*

*We need to stop and reflect awhile
Remembering our precious Lord
His birth, His life and sacrifice
And all that He stands for*

*For though the world
may celebrate
It seems though for other reasons
Let's keep in mind
that Jesus Christ
Is the true meaning of the season.*

Let Us Keep Christmas

*Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
It's poignant meaning for the hearts of men.
Let us get back our childlike faith again.*

- Grace Noll Crowell



✠ **The "REALITY" of Christmas** ✠ **Advent Services**

This week's message:

LOVE: FOR BOTH THE BEAUTY AND THE GEEK
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"I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap."

- Rodney Dangerfield

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The Last Christmas Tree

I saw a truck of Christmas trees
 And each one had a tale,
 The driver stood them in a row
 And put them up for sale.
 He strung some twinkly lights
 And hung a sign up with a nail;
 "FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES"
 It said in red
 "FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES
 FOR SALE."
 He poured himself hot cocoa
 In a steaming thermos cup,
 And snowflakes started falling
 As a family car pulled up.
 A mom, a dad, and one small boy
 Who looked no more than three
 Jumped out and started searching
 For the perfect Christmas tree.
 The boy marched up and
 down the rows,
 His nose high in the air;
 "It smells like Christmas, mom!
 It smells like Christmas
 everywhere!
 Let's get the biggest tree we can!
 A tree that's ten miles high!
 A tree to go right
 through our roof!
 A tree to touch
 the sky!"
 A tree SO big
 That Santa Claus

Will stop and stare and say,
 'Now, THAT'S the finest
 Christmas tree
 I've seen this Christmas Day!'"
 It seemed they looked
 at every tree
 At least three million times;
 Dad shook them, pinched them,
 turned them 'round
 To find the perfect pine.
 "I've found it, mom!
 The Christmas tree
 I like the best of all!
 It's got a little bare spot,
 But we'll turn that to the wall!
 We'll put great-grandma's angel
 On top the highest bough!
 Oh, can we buy it?
 Please, mom, PLEASE?!"
 Oh, can we buy it NOW?"
 "How 'bout some
 nice hot cocoa?"
 Asked the man who
 owned the lot.
 He twisted off the thermos top,
 "Now, THIS will hit the spot!"
 He poured the steaming chocolate
 In three tiny paper cups.
 They toasted,
 "Here's to Christmas!"
 And they drank the cocoa up.

(Continued on page 7)

FROM THE BOOK LIVE AND LEARN AND PASS IT ON

I've learned that I do not have to be perfect all the time for my family to love me. - Age 18

Darren DePague
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"A dog is not considered a good dog because he is a good barker. A man is not considered a good man because he is a good talker."

- Buddha

This Christmas

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(Continued from page 6)

"Is this your choice?"
 The tree man asked,
 "This pine's the best one here!"
 The boy seemed sad---
 "My daddy says
 The price is just too dear."
 "Then, Merry Christmas!"
 Said the man, who
 wrapped the tree in twine,
 "It's yours for just one promise
 You must keep at Christmas time!
 On Christmas Eve at bedtime
 As you fold your hands to pray,
 Promise in your heart
 To keep the joy of
 Christmas Day!
 Now hurry home!
 This freezy wind
 Is turning your cheeks pink!
 And ask your dad
 To trim that trunk and
 give that tree a drink!"
 And so it went on
 All that blustery eve
 As the tree man gave
 Tree upon tree upon tree
 To every last person
 Who came to the lot---
 Who toasted with cocoa
 In small paper cups,
 Who promised the promise
 Of joy in their hearts---

And singing out carols,
 Drove off in the dark.
 And when it was over
 One tree stood alone;
 But no one was left there
 To give it a home.
 The tree man put on his
 Red parka and hood
 And dragged the last
 Christmas tree
 Out to the woods.
 He left the pine right by a stream
 In the cold,
 So the wood's homeless creatures
 Could make it their home.
 He smiled as he brushed off
 Some snow from his beard,
 When out of the thicket
 A reindeer appeared.
 He scratched that huge reindeer
 On top his huge head---
 "It looks like we've
 Started up Christmas again!
 There are miles more to travel,
 And much more to do!
 Let's go home, my friend,
 And get started anew!"
 He looked to the sky
 And heard jingle bells
 sound---
 And then, in a
 twinkling,
 That tree man was
 gone!

*"I went to a fight the other night,
 and a hockey game broke out."
 - Rodney Dangerfield*

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sun that drives
winter from the
human face."*

- Victor Hugo



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BABY JESUS

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.
A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

SIBLINGS

Used to being the center of attention, Robbie was a little more than jealous of his new baby sister. The parents sat him down and said that now that she was getting older, the house was too small and they'd have to move.
"It's no use." Robbie said, "She's crawling good now and she'd probably just follow us."

BACHELORS

Two confirmed bachelors sat talking, their conversation drifted from politics to cooking.
"I got a cookbook once," said one, "but I could never do anything with it."
"Too much fancy work in it, eh?" asked the other.
"You said it. Every one of the recipes began the same way - 'Take a clean dish'".



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*May you have the gladness
of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas
which is peace;
The heart of Christmas
which is love.*

- Ada V. Hendricks