



Midweek Meditation



"Unto you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

For weeks we had been preparing for Christmas. Planning, organizing, shopping, decorating, baking. Every cookie had to be scrumpuous, every ornament hung just right, every present wrapped beautifully. We wanted a perfect Christmas. Which is rather odd because Christmas has nothing to do with perfection, but everything to do with imperfection. Jesus was not born into a perfect world. People were shoving, yelling, cursing. In Bethlehem no one was willing to make room for a fully pregnant young woman, and so she was forced to sleep in a barn. And our world today has not improved. Do you see perfection anywhere? It's not around us; it's not in us. And yet for some reason we expect our Christmas celebrations and gatherings to be just perfect.

What is perfect about Christmas is that the holy Child, perfect in every way, was born into our imperfection to save us from it. Perfect worlds do not need a Savior to come. Perfect people do not need the glad tidings of great joy which the angel announced to the shepherds. But imperfect people do. Which one are you? Maybe we should stop trying so hard to make everything perfect in our little worlds and confess that imperfection reigns; confess that we are poor sinners who desperately need a Savior.

And then there will be room in our hearts for the Christ Child. He comes into imperfection. He comes in love. He comes to forgive sinners; to redeem imperfect people. Jesus was born for you, my imperfect friend, and He was born for me. That's what is so perfect about Christmas. Not the way we celebrate. Not who it is that celebrates. But He who comes to be born for sinful, imperfect people like us. For now we have peace with God. We have joy. We have hope. For we have a loving and forgiving Savior in Jesus.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming into my imperfect world, life, and heart, to rescue me from my imperfection and save me from my sins. Amen.