

Life Church Sermon Sheet:

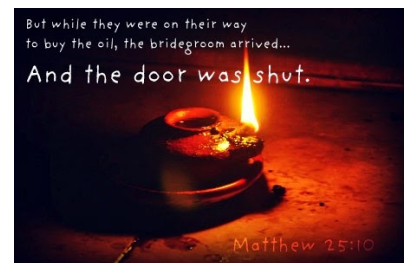
Date: Sunday, December 9, 2018
Rev. M. Dixon

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Title: **Growing an Advent Prayer Mindset**

From Faith to Persevering Hope and true and natural love.

1. We are in Advent...This series is going to focus on Prayer.
 - a. **What Advent is...** and how it is a mindset for ALL prayer we do. Preparation for a celebration of FREEDOM and Identity.
 - b. **How an Advent Prayer mindset looks**
 - c. **How we can support each other in getting our lamps filled**
2. Advent it is a time of Expectant Waiting, and preparation for a Celebration! That sounds like what God wants from us regarding prayer. Advent is like Passover- a time where we are waiting to be free to become who we truly are- not slaves in Egypt making bricks, Free to have land and farm our land without Guilt or Shame or feeling inadequate.
3. Advent is about Preparation of your house...(your temple) About Christmas time... about visitors coming- Cleaning things up and preparing food, etc. so you can focus on fellowship once they get there, instead of just preparation and miss out on the whole point of having beloved company. What does our house look like: **Focus on the Message, Family Up, Flow in the Spirit, Face Your Problems, Farm Your Land, Find Your Purpose, Fulfill Your Mission.**
 - a. **Matt 22:1-14**- God's preparation for visitors- for a party! It shows us how to prepare for Advent...
 - i. Prepared a Banquet- a spread for those invited...
 - ii. Invite Those who are expected to come- Usually Family & Close friends...
 - iii. Follow up on Invites
 1. Un-invite the non- appreciative. Not pretty here!
Usually Family is invited (in this case this is a metaphor for the Jews), They ignored God's call to come to Jesus' wedding! They even killed the prophets- the messengers of the invites... So he killed those who killed the prophets and burned their city (or would do that with the temple). He then invites whosoever will... the gentiles. We are called (invited) to the wedding as Friends! Many are invited but few are chosen to sit at the head table and be part of the wedding itself.
 2. Invite those to take their place- without lowering the standard of Expectation.
 3. Un-invite the non-prepared... Matt 25:1-13 10 Virgins... 5 Were not prepared and expected their folks to bail them out. I get this all the time in



School. The Lord reminded me I am the same way at times... Be careful because your choices become your identity. Your life is a product of your choices.. Choose intentionally.. not passively. Take responsibility for your choices. You have the Conn (ship's Wheel that sets direction) of your life.

- iv. Remember what is really important... The Fellowship- not the preparation...
 - v. Our preparation should be like Children... Not being too hard on ourselves, but making sure we grow even from mistakes and healthy feedback.
4. Commercial Break: (15 min) Growth Mindset: 5 min <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWn TJTrnU>
 5. Break up into groups of 5-6...
 - a. What does Growth Mindset look like in the Bible? Any scriptural basis? (we want to start here so we are not just walking in Humanistic worldview).
 - b. If it is biblical- what does it mean for you? Write this down_____ (we may not get to share out right now...)
 - c. What does it have to do with Christmas? Jesus came as a _____ (a-c 5 Min..)
 - d. In your group spend 5 minutes thinking about a Commercial break for next week (or the following week)- What can you share as a group? A skit a video, who will take part?
 6. Conclusion: Wait expectantly (Trust), We need to prepare and During Advent... In our prayers, we have to trust (Know God is answering our prayers like Simeon and Anna- though we don't know how or when), Prepare (time and a list- clean our life house- our identity is unique...) God made us special and we have come a special path, Put him and his people first. Daniel Prayed for the people to get restored to Israel. He never made it back. His prayer took 70 Years to be answered, His prayer was part of his identity, His faithfulness was part of his identity and freedom, even though he was in a strange land, he was free. Simeon and Anna are remembered for how they waited. Daniel for how he prayed.
 7. Questions to Answer Please write these down! You can share with the person next you (pairs) if we have time.
 - a. Would you say that Prayer is part of your identity? _____
 - b. In what areas of your life do you not feel free? Do you feel you are making Bricks for someone else rather than accomplishing what you were meant to do, or areas where you need oil to be prepared?_____
 - c. What 1 thing can you have a growth Mindset about that will help you prepare, Be patient with yourself and others about and let God help you with? You may not be prepared like Daniel or the 5 wise virgins- YET but to patiently improve I am going to (even if I make Mistakes)

Summary of Dweck's Mindset

Fixed vs Growth

ability is static	ability is developed
avoids challenges	embraces challenges
gives up easily	persists in obstacles
sees effort as fruitless	sees effort as necessary
ignores useful criticism	learns from criticism
threatened by others	inspired by others' success

Advent

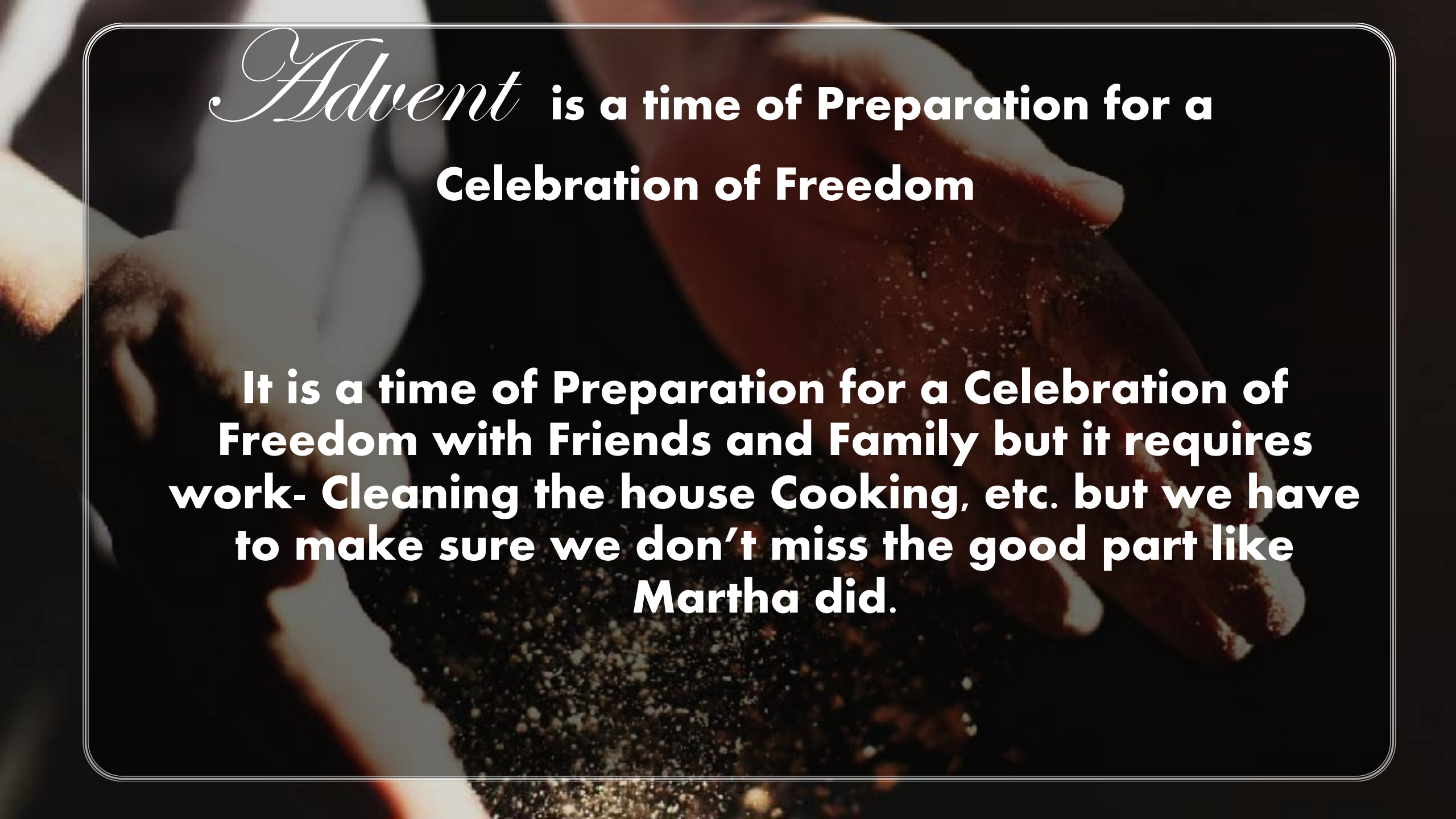
Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Thanks to Family we can be real with each other
as we wait, even when we have a

Flat Tire



Advent is a time of Preparation for a
Celebration of Freedom

It is a time of Preparation for a Celebration of Freedom with Friends and Family but it requires work- Cleaning the house Cooking, etc. but we have to make sure we don't miss the good part like Martha did.

When God prepares a party it comes out Good!

- 1. Even when he helps out he makes the host look bad (Wedding at Cana)**
- 2. God Does Invite Guests (Save the date) and follows up with the invite. When folks CHOOSE not to come, He doesn't take that too well. They get un-invited. And if they hurt his messengers- worse.**
- 3. God then invites others but expects them to come prepared as well Ugly sweaters and all.**

Matthew 22:1-14



Remember

what is really important- the
fellowship not the preparation... though
the preparation shows our value for the
Fellowship.

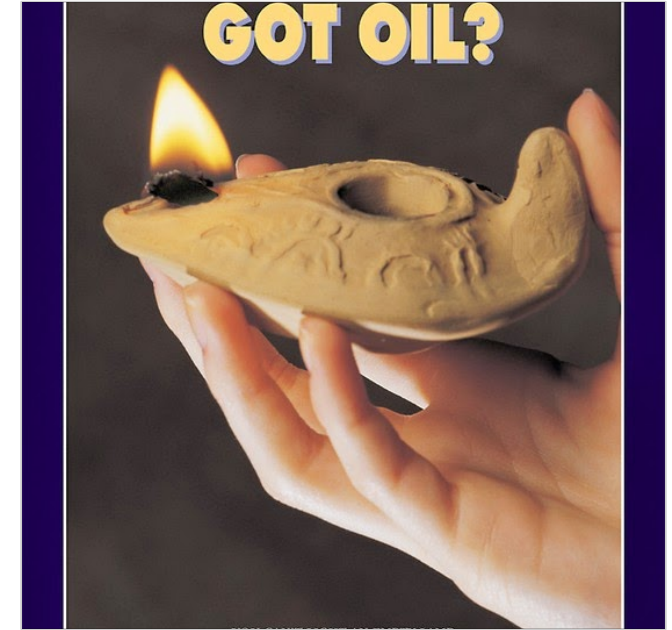


**“Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”**
Mark 10:14

**“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power
of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to
make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”** Luke 1:17

Be Prepared

We often want the benefits of the party but don't show up on time



- **Matt 25: 1-13 The 10 Virgins is a tough story but it is also part of the learning process. We often look down on the 5 virgins who missed out. We don't know what happened to the other 5 virgins to make them wise. They may have been left out before and said not this time. Let's not lament over failures but learn from them!**

If you can't fly, then **RUN**.
If you can't run, then **WALK**.
If you can't walk, then **CRAWL**.

But whatever you do,

YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.



Martin Luther King, Jr. – Civil Rights Activist and Pastor

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A Growth Mindset is needed to prepare with Freedom, not bondage- The whole point of Advent!

What does Growth Mindset look like in the Bible? Any scriptural basis? (we want to start here so we are not just walking in Humanistic worldview). If it is biblical- what does it mean for you? Write this down

What does it have to do with Christmas? Jesus came as a _____

You can share with the person next you (pairs) if we have time. Would you say that Prayer is part of your identity? _____

In what areas of your life do you not feel free? Do you feel you are making Bricks for someone else rather than accomplishing what you were meant to do, or areas where you need oil to be prepared? _____

What 1 thing can you have a growth Mindset about that will help you prepare, Be patient with yourself and others about and let God help you with? You may not be prepared like Daniel or the 5 wise virgins- YET but to patiently improve I am going to (even if I make Mistakes)

For Next time...Practical applications of preparation...

A photograph of a forest path with large, gnarled trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The path is a dirt road that curves through the trees. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The trees are thick and have a textured bark. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

We can only see a SHORT distance ahead,
but we can see

PLENTY

there that needs to be done.

Alan Turing – British Computer Scientist

If you are always trying to be normal,
you will never know how

AMAZING

you can be.

Maya Angelou – American Poet

BE THE CHANGE

you want to see

IN THE WORLD.

Mahatma Gandhi – Civil Rights Activist

