



Advent Week 4

Day 27, Friday, December 24th

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."

Isaiah 9:6-7

It's hard to imagine, in this day, a government so amazing that we would consider the fact that it would never end to be good news. Can you picture an earthly kingdom characterized by justice and righteousness - always and forever? It's a stretch, isn't it?

When we consider some of the most successful kingdoms throughout the Earth's history, with the happiest subjects, the fairest laws, the lowest taxes... all have eventually proven flawed by the corruption of power and ambition, weak or greedy leaders, restless, rebellious people or some combination of our universal brokenness. No matter how good a government may seem for a time, it's clear that humans, even with the best intentions, have never been/will never be able to accomplish this sort of ideal civilization. It's impossible.

But, look at the good news of this passage: that's just what God did! Through the birth of this one babe, this child, God established a Kingdom - overflowing with justice, righteousness, peace with no end, and ruled by the most Wonderful Counselor, the Mightiest God, the Everlasting Father, and Prince of all Peace. There is one more name for this perfect king, the ruler of this shockingly perfect eternal kingdom. It is "Jesus." Luckily, we don't have to wait for some distant future in which he will reign. No, King Jesus reigns now and forever. We are invited to join him in being a part of the beautiful kingdom where justice, righteousness and peace will never end. What are you waiting for?

REFLECT: In what ways do you experience the Kingdom of God around you every day? Are there areas of your life in which you struggle to see it?

PRAY: Jesus, thank you for your Kingdom, which has only ever been and will always be for my good. Help me to increasingly experience Your reign of justice, righteousness and peace unending. I ask in your name, Jesus, my King. Amen.

