

Blue Christmas

Most classic Christmas songs are filled with the joy, wonder, and excitement of the season. Yet, not all Christmas songs are merry. Some are very sad. Bing Crosby recorded "I'll Be Home For Christmas," in 1943 in the middle of WWII. It is the standard song for those who are spending Christmas away from home and family. "Blue Christmas" is the ultimate tune of unrequited love. Ernest Tubbs first recorded the tune in 1948. The 1957 version by Elvis Presley is the standard.

Not everyone is full of cheer at Christmas. In fact, this is a season when depression is at a peak for some people. My friend, if you are in pain this Advent season, God is here to comfort you. Perhaps you are in grief over the loss of a loved one. Perhaps this was not the kind of year financially you had expected. Or perhaps you received a bad medical prognosis for yourself or someone close to you. Perhaps your marriage is coming apart; or you are dealing with other family problems. Whatever your heartbreak this day, God offers you his comfort.

Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31

Advent says that God cares about a broken world.

- Isaiah was speaking to a broken nation. Much of the nation was carried away into exile.
- Isaiah assures them that God has not forgotten them nor forsaken them.
- Their suffering is almost over.
- God will build a vast highway over which they can travel through the wilderness back to their home.
- God cares about a broken world. God cares about broken people.
- The birth of Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy.
- Jesus came not to a perfect and peaceful world. Jesus came to a broken, crooked, rough world that needs healing.
- [The low places he lifts up. The crooked places he makes straight. The rough places he makes smooth.](#)

Jesus came into our world to identify with our suffering.

- This is the point of Advent.
- Advent in Latin means, "to come."
- Jesus came into our world that he might walk in our shoes.
- Jesus' birth
 - Born in a stable (dirty, unsanitary, humiliating for Joseph). This is probably the least impressive way to enter the world!
 - Bethlehem is not one of the great cities of the world. It is small and insignificant.
 - Questionable heritage (virgin birth, lineage includes prostitutes, murderers and cheats)
 - Birth announcement was to a group of shepherds, who were not exactly the centers of communication or very credible sources of information, because they lived lonely lives of obscurity.
 - Jesus lived his entire life hidden in the village of Nazareth until age 30. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" was the saying.
- Jesus knows the challenges we face. God knows the pain of being a human being.

Hebrews 4:14-16

- The highway that Jesus built between heaven and earth is a two-way road. God came down to us so that we might go up to him.
- God has walked in your shoes. God knows your pain. This is the Gospel. This is the Good News. God cares about a broken world. Jesus came into our world to identify with our suffering.

Bethlehem's manger is as much a part of our salvation as the Calvary's cross.

- **Isaiah 40:9**
 - Christ's birth is Good News—Good tidings of Great Joy.
 - Lift up your voice and shout.
 - Do not be afraid.
 - Here is your God!
- **Isaiah 40:10-11**
 - He tends his flocks.
 - He gathers the lambs in his arms.
 - He carries them close to his heart.
 - He gently leads us.
 - Here is your God.

Conclusion

God cares about a broken world. Jesus came into the world to identify with our suffering. He built a highway to lead us out and into the presence of our God. Here is your God!