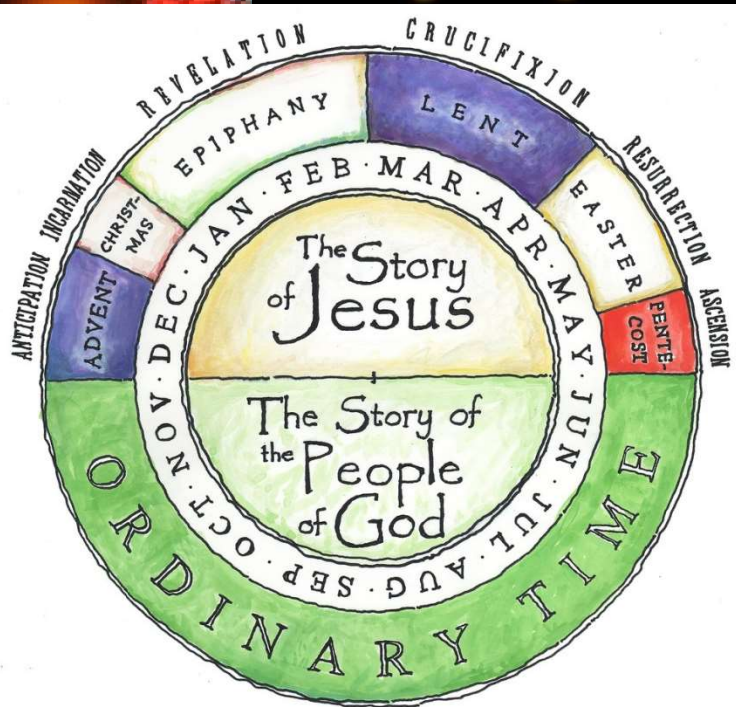


# Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



# Journey Home for Christmas

1. Where hope is generated.
2. Where a way of Lord is prepared.
3. Where joy is overflown.
4. Where peace is made.
5. O Holy Night at the House of the Living Bread
5. Where God dwells
6. Where people reconeite one another



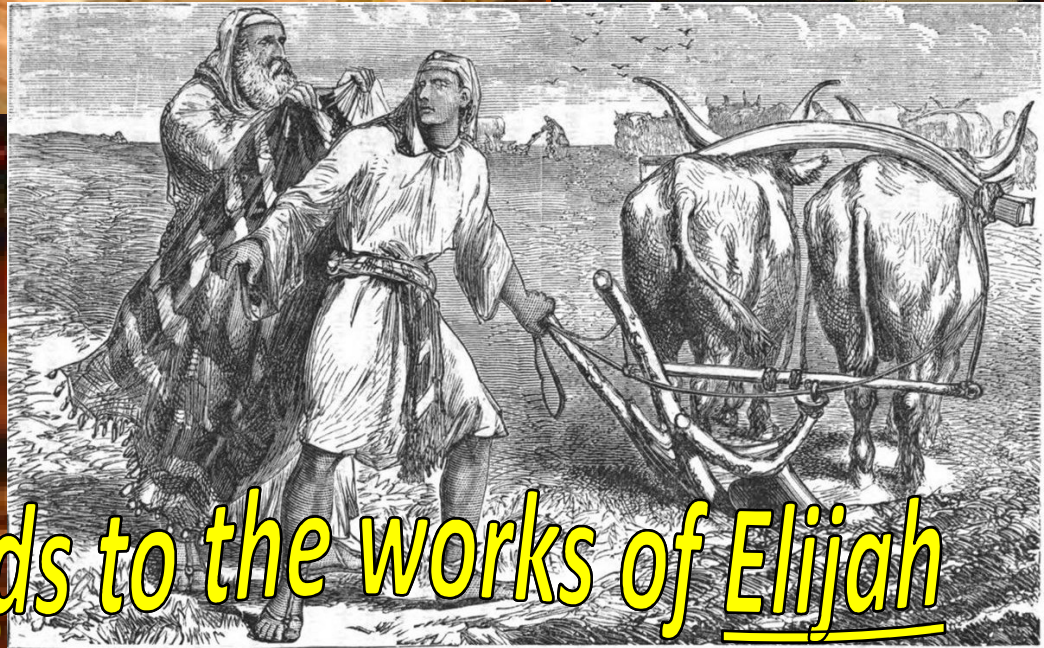
PEACE ON EARTH  
JOY TO THE WORLD

Matthew 3:1-12

John & Jesus



Elijah  
&  
Elisha



Elisha succeeds to the works of Elijah  
(2 Kings 2:2-3)

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*Prepare a Way for the Lord God - Jesus*

The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,  
"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness."

Prepare the way for the  
LORD'S coming!  
Clear the road for him!"


Matthew 3:3 NLT



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
of  
Advent**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

***“Turn Around” – Come Home***



In those days John  
the Baptist appeared  
in the wilderness of  
Judea, proclaiming,  
“Repent, for the  
kingdom of heaven  
has come near.”

Matthew 3.1

***How to prepare ourselves at the Advent of God?***



*Matthew 3:1-12*  
*"Turn Around" – Come Home*

It's Never Too Late  
to Come Home.

*How to prepare ourselves at the Advent of God?*

1. Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.



*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where A Way of the Lord Is Prepared*

# 1. Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.

*Repentance* is not only possible  
but also *joyful*  
because of our  
*Savior.*  
—DALE G. RENLUND

REPENTANCE  
IS A CHANGE OF  
MIND AND HEART.  
IT INCLUDES  
TURNING AWAY FROM SIN  
AND  
TURNING TO GOD  
FOR FORGIVENESS.

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where A Way of the Lord Is Prepared*



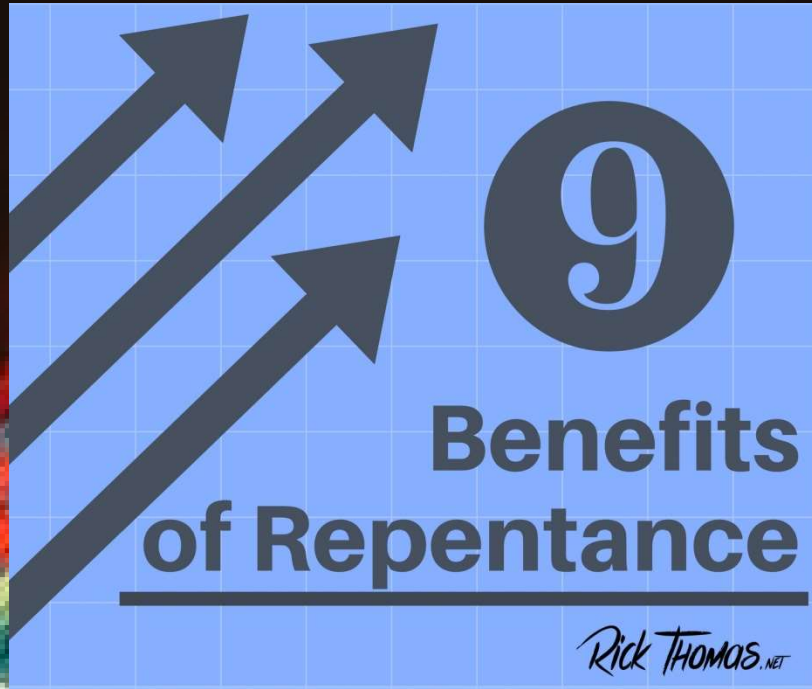
# 1. Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.

"Repentance is a part of salvation, and when Christ saves us, he saves us by making us repent. But repentance does not save. It is the work of God alone."  
~ Charles H. Spurgeon



*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where A Way of the Lord Is Prepared*

1. Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.



- ① FREEDOM FROM YOUR SIN
- ② REMOVAL OF ALL GUILT
- ③ REGRETS BEGIN TO DISAPPEAR
- ④ CLEANSSES YOUR CONSCIENCE
- ⑤ SOVEREIGN CLARITY ABOUT PAST
- ⑥ RESOLVES PERSONAL CONFLICT
- ⑦ MATURES YOUR RELATIONSHIPS
- ⑧ SECOND CHANCE TO DO BETTER
- ⑨ PROVIDES A CHRISTLIKE FUTURE

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where A Way of the Lord Is Prepared*

2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.



*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 3:1

*Journey Home for Christmas*

*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.

~ Isaiah 9:2 ~

"The people walking in  
darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of  
deep darkness  
a light has dawned."

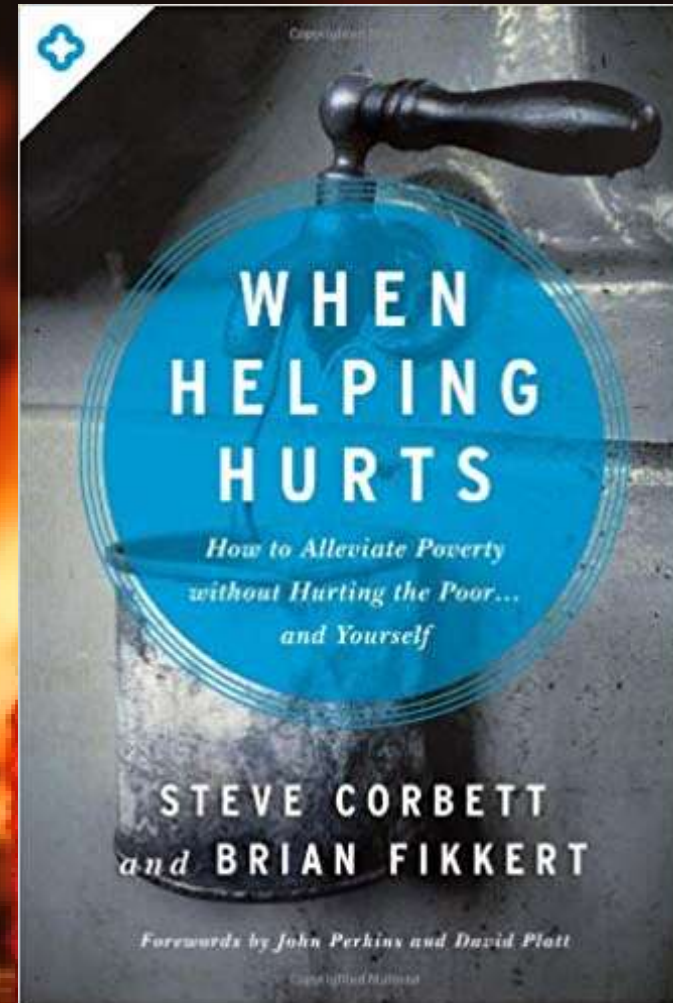
[www.naplesfchurch.com](http://www.naplesfchurch.com)

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

## 2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.

*“... failing to consider the complexities of poverty, we have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good.*

*See the dignity in everyone, to empower the materially poor, and to know that we are all uniquely needy—and that God in the gospel is reconciling all things to himself.”*



*Journey Home for Christmas  
Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*


## 2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.

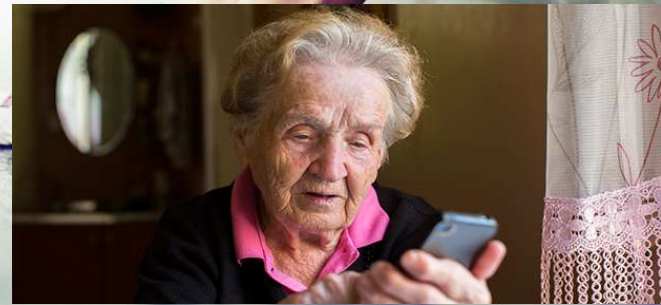
*Loneliness happens as a result*  
**1) of judgment,**  
**2) of technology; and**  
**3) of full schedule.**

*“Loneliness and a Remedy”*  
By Tyler Kleeberger




*lonely*  
**IS NOT BEING ALONE  
BUT  
IT'S THE FEELING  
THAT NO ONE  
CARES**

 maxabout.com



*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

## 2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



Matthew 7:1

**Judge not,  
that you be  
not judged.**

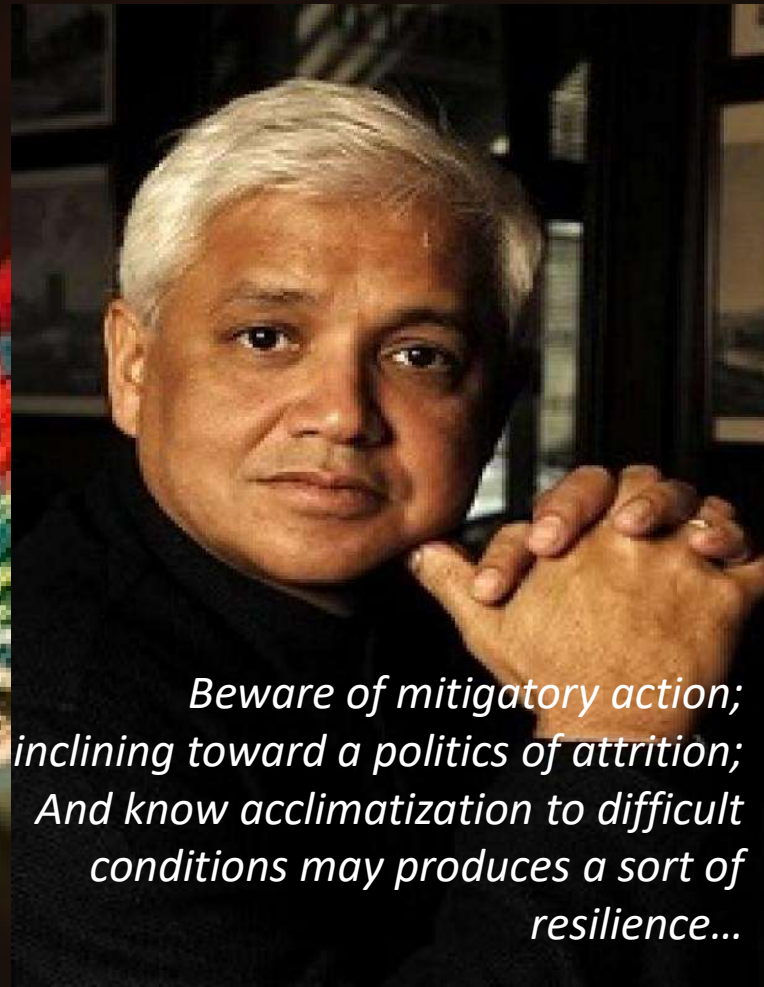
*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Matthew 6:14-15

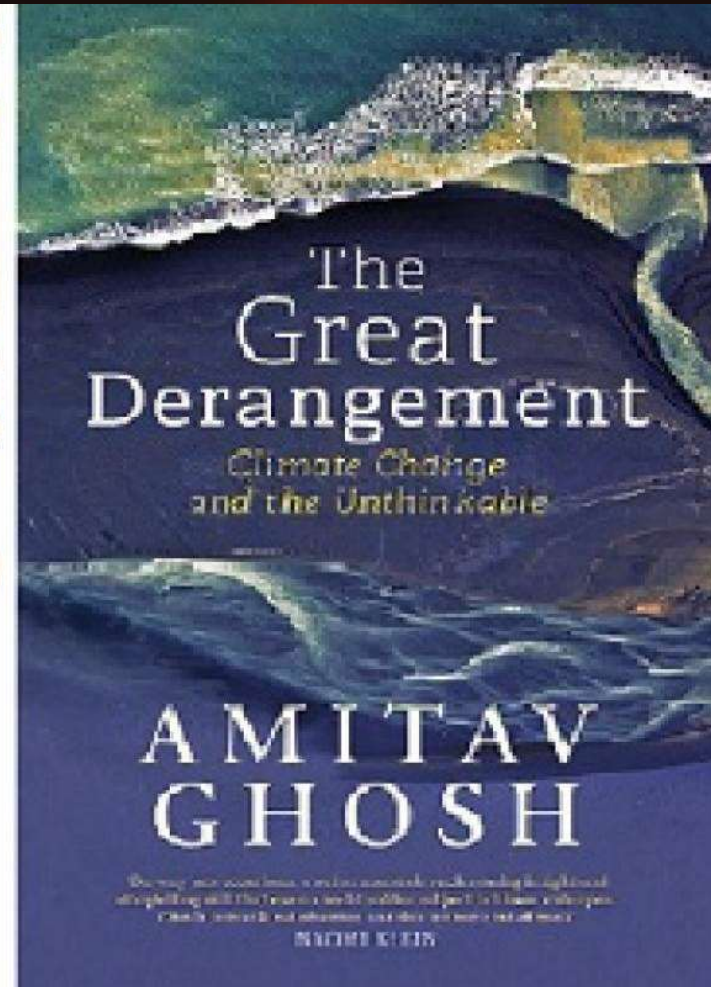
*Journey Home for Christmas  
Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*



2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.



*Beware of mitigatory action;  
inclining toward a politics of attrition;  
And know acclimatization to difficult  
conditions may produces a sort of  
resilience...*



*Journey Home for Christmas  
Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

## 2. Prepare a way of the Lord for our journey home for Christmas.



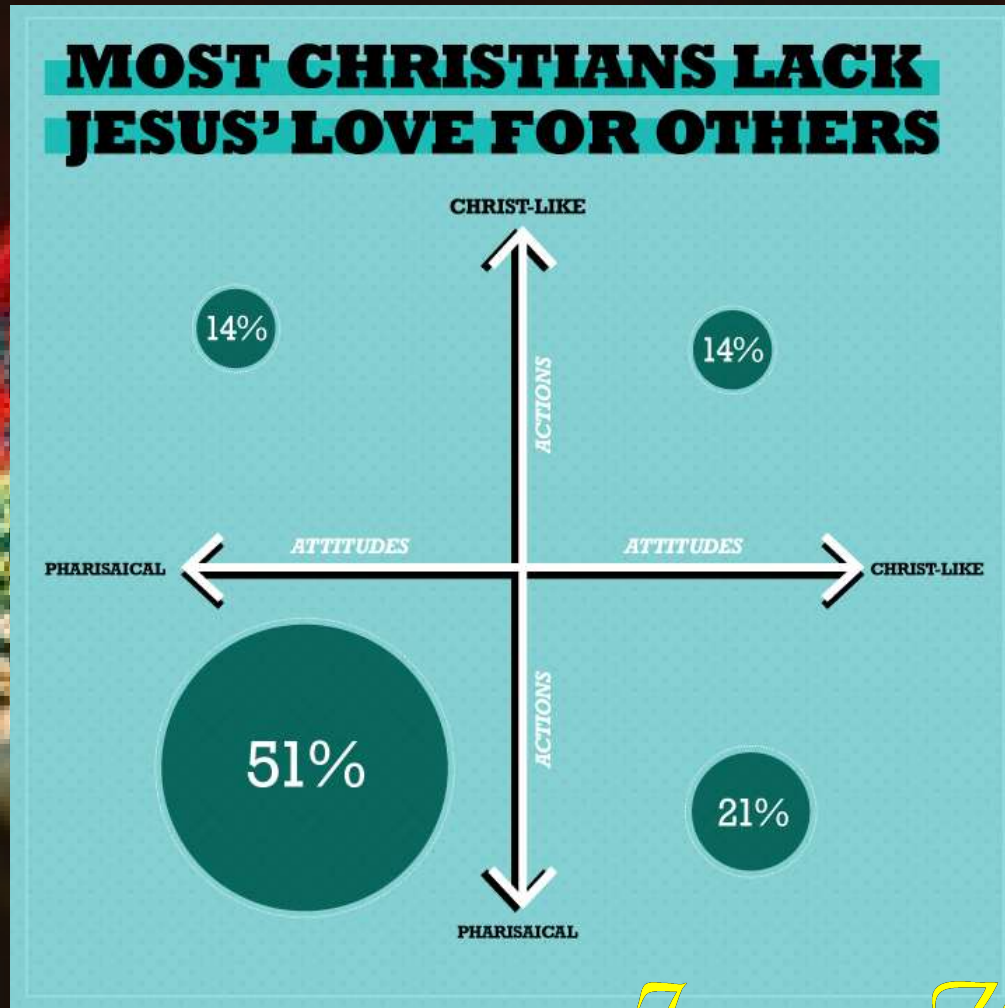
*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

3. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.



*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

### 3. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.



*“Are Christians Really Hypocrites? Barna Researchers Examine Actions, Attitudes?”*

*Barna survey suggests that overcoming self-righteous tendencies is difficult for Christians—regardless of denomination or demographics.*

*By Melissa Steffan  
MAY 3, 2013*

*Journey Home for Christmas  
Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

3. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

<sup>10</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:10  
NIV

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

4. Come to Jesus to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and the fire.

A warm, cozy winter scene featuring a fire in a fireplace, a pair of colorful patterned socks, and a red knitted mug. The background is a blurred fire, and the foreground shows the socks and the mug on a wooden surface.

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*

4. Come to Jesus to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and the fire.



*Journey home for Christmas with Gifts*

*Journey Home for Christmas*  
*Part 2. Where a Way of the Lord is Prepared*