

## **ADVENT SERIES – WEEK THREE – SUMMARY**

### **Prophet Zephaniah**

- Around 600BC, one of the “minor prophets
- Sent to the Israelites who had once again fallen away from God and were guilty of worshipping other gods
- Zephaniah 3: 14-20
- If the Israelites repent, God will restore them in love and tenderness and great joy! God delights in His people.

### **Mary and Joseph**

- Their joy was based on the relentless love of God.
- Their recognition of God’s love and goodness allowed them the freedom to respond with trust and confidence.

### **Our Call to Allow God to Refine Us**

- God continually pursues us, protecting us and delighting in us as His own.
- We are to seek to recognize God’s love and goodness and to remove obstacles of self-preoccupation, complaining and comparisons.
- In gratitude, we delight in God’s delight in us!

### **Questions for Reflection:**

- Am I guilty of backsliding like the Israelites, making a mockery of my worship by “looking the part” in my weekly worship but not living as a disciple the rest of the week?
- Do I intentionally seek to recognize God’s love and goodness in my life by removing the obstacles of self-preoccupation, complaining and comparisons?
- Is gratitude a regular part of my daily prayer? We teach children to say thank you – do I thank my Heavenly Father? Perhaps our Twelve Days of Christmas could be Twelve Days of Gratitude.
- Do I take time to simply allow God to delight in me?

### **Scripture Reflections**

- Ps. 5: 11 “But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.”
- Ps. 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”
- PS. 23 “The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

- Ps. 147: 11 “But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.”
- Is. 42:1 “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.”