

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend. "I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So, I tossed a coin," said Bobby. "But that shouldn't have taken too long." said the friend. "Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

Dear Friends,

We are close to the celebration of Christmas. This week brings more expectation of our travels, whether you are traveling somewhere or your siblings or kids, relatives traveling to your home to celebrate Christmas. We have been planning this travel almost close to a year or least a month or weeks. Everything brings us joy.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent leads us to Bethlehem—a town so small and seemingly unimportant that it hardly merited mention in ancient records. Yet, God chose this insignificant place as the stage for the most significant event in human history: the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. This choice speaks volumes about how God works, often in ways that defy human expectations.

The prophet Micah foretold that Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah," would be the birthplace of the ruler of Israel (Micah 5:2). Mary, a young girl from an obscure village, is chosen to bear the Son of God. Shepherds, considered lowly and unimportant, are the first to receive the heavenly announcement of Jesus' birth.

In today's Gospel, we witness a meeting between two seemingly insignificant women: Mary and Elizabeth. Neither were prominent in society. Mary, a young girl from a small town, carried the Christ-child in her womb. Elizabeth, advanced in age and once barren, was the mother of John the Baptist.

God chose these women, not because of status or power, but because of their faith, humility, and openness to His will. Mary's response—"Be it done to me according to your word"—was the very posture that allowed God to work through her. Second reading focuses that Christ came to the earth to do his will.

Throughout Scripture, God has shown His preference for the insignificant:

- Abraham was an elderly man with no children, yet he became the father of nations.
- David was the youngest shepherd boy, yet he became Israel's greatest king.
- The apostles were uneducated fishermen, yet they carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

- God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Our reflection for this week:

Many of us may feel like "Bethlehem's" in our own lives—overlooked or insignificant. But God calls us to see that it is often in the quiet, ordinary corners of our lives that His grace works most profoundly.

Have you taken the three minutes daily and ask God to share his plans with you? If you feel at peace with his plan how are you living it out?

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for working through the small and insignificant to accomplish great things. Help us to trust in Your plan and to see Your presence in the ordinary moments of our lives. May we, like Mary and Joseph, embrace Your call with faith and humility. Prepare our hearts for the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our hope and salvation. Amen.