"The Redemption of Scrooge"

By Matt Rawle
Lead Pastor - Asbury UMC
Bossier City, LA

Reflection (from Session #1)

- Do you believe that Jesus came to <u>save us</u> from counting our past as our only reality?
- Do you believe that God invites <u>everyone</u> into his kingdom?
- How do you feel called to <u>respond</u> to God's grace?

• During this holiday season, how might you practice the spiritual discipline of <u>slowing down</u> to notice God's presence?

The Remembrance of Christmas Past

Luke 16:19 – 31

Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19 – 31 Rich Man and Lazarus

Why did the Rich Man go to hell?

Luke 16:19 – 31 Rich Man and Lazarus

What is Christ trying to communicate when saying the Rich Man's brothers can not be warned?

Luke 16:19 – 31 Rich Man and Lazarus

What chasms separate us from those in our community or elsewhere in the world who have significant needs?

God Rest You Merry

1760

God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray

> Oh tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy; Oh tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel This blessed Babe was born And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn The which His Mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn

From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came, And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same, How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name.

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface.

Reflections on the Carol

- Christ was born "to save us all from Satan's power". Are these just outdated old words?
- Mary did not take the humble birth of Jesus to be scornful. Do we view our faith as an object of scorn?
- What could Scrooge view from his past as "tidings of comfort and joy"?
- What can you view from your past as "tidings of comfort and joy"?

Remembrance of Christmas Past



Reflection

- What lessons can you learn by revisiting both your positive and not so positive memories?
- Would it be valuable spiritual practice to set aside time to reflect on how your past has impacted where you are in your faith journey?
- How can you bring the Hope of God's redemption and healing power to those who need it most?



H ** O ** P ** E

Our Faith is ground in the HOPE of Salvation. Let us not walk aimlessly in darkness, but let us see the light that Christ will bring into the world.

Christ died and was raised, not to prevent us from grieving but so our brokenness would be redeemed, our faults would not define us, and our sadness would not be the end of the story.