

SERMON OUTLINE Various Texts

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

A BRIEF HISTORY

GLORIOUS TRUTHS

1. *Come thou long-expected Jesus (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:25-32; Acts 1:9-11).*
2. *Born to set thy people free (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Galatians 5:1).*
3. *From our sins and fears release us (1 Peter 1:4-5; John 14:27).*
4. *Let us find our rest in Thee (Matthew 11:28).*
5. *Israel's strength and consolation (Luke 2:25; Philippians 4:7).*
6. *Hope of all the earth thou art (Matthew 12:18-21).*
7. *Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart (Psalm 16:11; John 15:11).*
8. *Born a child and yet a king (Colossians 1:27-29; Philippians 2:6-11).*
9. *Born to reign in us forever; Now thy gracious kingdom bring; Rule in all our hearts alone (Matt 28:18; 1 Tim 6:15-16; John 1:14).*
10. *By thine own eternal spirit (John 1:1; Revelation 1:4, 6, 8).*
11. *By thine all sufficient merit (Romans 6:10; Hebrews 9:26-28).*
12. *Raise us to thy glorious throne (2 Timothy 2:11-12; Revelation 3:21).*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

To help us appreciate and respond to all the good news that Christmas is for those who believe, we're going to look more closely at the history and glorious truths declared in the hymn, "Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus." In other words, my aim for this sermon is to come at the Christmas story in a fun and fresh way in order to help us all see its glory in greater detail and measure, and that in order that we might respond in greater gladness, worship, and obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is your favorite Christmas song? Why is it your favorite? Has it changed over the years?
3. What is your favorite present you've ever gotten for Christmas? Do you still have it?
4. Which of the "three most significant events in human history" (creation, Christmas, Easter) are you most impressed by? Why?
5. Why do you think it's so easy to miss the extraordinary nature of Christmas? How have you fought against that?
6. Which line from "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" stands out to you the most? Why?
7. When do you most desire Jesus? When do you most long for His return?
8. Can you name any specific ways that Christmas has led to a release from fear? Increased rest? Growing hope? Real comfort?
9. What is one area in your life that you are glad to submit to Jesus as King? What is one area you're still reluctant?
10. What is one thing you really hope to do on Christmas? What is one thing you really hope not to do?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Make a plan to celebrate Christmas for God's glory. Consider one thing you might add or take away to help.
13. Share the Christmas story with someone who does not believe.
14. Make a playlist with theologically rich and musically excellent Christmas music.
15. Decorate your home with things that point to specific attributes of God or elements of the gospel. Consider making some.
16. Commit to a simple Bible reading plan through Advent. Work slowly and prayerfully through it.
17. Participate as fully as possible in the Christmas events of Grace Church.
18. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon? How will you celebrate Christmas differently this year?

PRAYER POINTS

19. Adoration. Praise God for all His attributes that are on display at Christmas—faithful, merciful, gracious, generous, loving, etc..
20. Confession. Confess any lack of trust, gratitude, or worship. Confess any ways you've allowed the things of earth to overshadow Jesus during Christmas. Confess any reluctance to share the Christmas story with the world.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for sending Jesus. Thank Jesus for willingly coming in order to die for our sins. Thank God for giving us the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. Thank God for whoever shared the gospel with you.
22. Supplication. Ask God to comfort the hurting. Ask Him to reveal Himself to the lost. Ask God to reconcile broken families. Ask God to give us an appropriate appreciation for Christmas. Ask God to help us sing this hymn with genuine thankfulness.