Motivational Moment

Embracing the Spirit
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It May Not Seem/Feel Like it but Help is on the Way!
John 11
A time of fun, rejoicing, celebration, fellowship, anticipation, love, joy and new life while also being a time of pain, anxiety, depression, sadness, despair, grief and loneliness.

Therefore, we must consider what sites and sources of hope are available to us or what fresh sites and new sources of hope, divine insight, peace, closure and even clarity might we discover during this time of year.

In between these spaces of pain and possibility, despair and deliverance, apathy and actualization, grief and generosity, burden and blessing God might be up to something!
Advent - The arrival of a notable person, thing or an event. Advent thus becomes a time of great anticipation for change, renewal and restoration.

Advent represents the radical reorienting of relationships e.g. last will be first and the first shall be last etc.

Advent represents this divine in-breaking of the not yet but soon to come (sign of the times) that has appeared in the right now!

Advent represents God’s response to the needs, longings and desires of God’s children.

Advent serves as a reminder that God has not and will not forsake us and empire does not have the last word!

Advent reflects the reality that God knows, God cares, God sees and God is there!
What then shall we do?

Perspective- How do we see ourselves, this year, God’s grace, our future?

Proclamation- What words do we speak to ourselves, God, family and friends during this season?

Proximity- Where do we go (psychologically, spiritually and geographically) during this season. What sites or sources are we allowing to influence our minds, body, spirit and energy?

Presence- Based on how we see, what we say and where we go, are we ourselves present. What are we in the presence of?
Jesus is fully aware of the/our situation and values the/our relationship, and what seems like a delay (V6) is not reflective of a dismissal concerning the severity of the/our situation.

We can confuse sovereignty with a lack of concern. (Kairos timing)

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9
Jesus is willing to go into an uncomfortable and dangerous space/place in an effort to be present with those whom he loves.
Jesus makes a declaration about who Lazarus is and what Lazarus means to him and the disciples!

Jesus makes a declaration about what he is going to do!
( He has fallen asleep but I am going to awaken him!)

You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants[4] any longer, because the servant[5] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. John 15: 14-16 (NRSV)
For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Jesus’s response reveals another divine plan at work. Trust without being able to trace, pain that has a purpose in it, loss that can give birth to new life!

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26-28 (NRSV)
There are others who love us enough or have loved us enough to put themselves in a vulnerable and dangerous position with or for us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, Heb 12:1
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