George Wasson November 26, 2017

"Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, 'Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!"

Isaiah 40:3-5
740-690 B.C.

"I have always loved you,' says the Lord."

- Malachi 1:2

"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Malachi 3:1
470-460 B.C.

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room..."

- Isaac Watts, Joy to the World, 1719

How do we prepare for Christmas?

We PREPARE for Christmas by MAKING ROOM For Christ

"We're ready for Christmas, not when we have all the gifts, but when we are ready for Christ – when we're ready to give all of ourselves to Christ."

Ann Voskamp

#PREPARATION for CHRISTMAS

By taking time to **EXPERIENCE** Christ

Don't let the refrain of your life echo the words of the "inn keeper": "No Room." Instead...

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:7

- Are there things you need to ADD?
- Are there things you need to ELIMINATE?
- Are there things you need to <u>PRIORITIZE</u>?

By taking time to **SHARE** Christ

"I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings."

1 Corinthians 9:23

- Are there people you need to FORGIVE?
- Are there people you need to <u>LOVE</u>?
- Are there people you need to <u>INVITE</u>?

By taking time to **SERVE** Christ

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

- Are there places you need to GIVE?
- Are there people you need to HELP?
- Are there things you need to <u>DO</u>?

^{*}Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are from the New Living Translation of the Bible