



The Secret of Emptying...Expectations

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor

December 6 & 8, 2013

[Jesus] emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7

"KENOSIS" (emptying) is the *look behind the scenes*

(what was THAT all about) and the *"Secret"*!

↳ The secret of Happy Holidays... *LIFE*... is *Emptying*
(a.k.a. "kenosis")

↳ Start by *EMPTYING... EXPECTATIONS*

CHRISTMAS IN KENOSIS — Philippians 2:1–13

HOW TO STAY MISERABLE...

- ☹ Expect *IT to be like X*
- ☹ Expect *THEM / HIM / HER* to *respond* like Y
- ☹ Expect that *"THIS will make me happy!"*

EMPTYING EXPECTATIONS

1. Re-Thinking: Emptying *makes space for God to fill*
... hope... faith... vision: I choose to be *open* and *expectant* to what God will do.
2. Re-Relating: Kenosis makes *true connection* (think love) *possible*
... Right now, *release them* (*aphiemi* = forgiver or let go)
3. Re-Christmasing: Peace on (my) earth — know where *God is taking this story*
... Good... NO, *BETTER* is *coming* so *start early!*

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The Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

The prophet Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah, says

"...and he will be their peace"

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are small among the clans of Judah,
Out of you will come for me
One who will become the ruler over Israel,
Whose origins are from of old,
From days of eternity.
He will stand and shepherd his flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
Will reach the ends of the earth
And he will be their Peace...

Micah 5:2, 4, 5a

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

A number of years ago I was visiting an Episcopalian church. A young fellowship of Christ followers, they met in a school auditorium and used a modern liturgy. I was very interested in the liturgy of this contemporary service. I was in for a delightful surprise during a portion of the service called The Peace. As if on cue folks in the congregation turned to one another and exchanged a spiritual greeting. As they clasped hands, one would say, "The peace of the Lord be with you." The other person responded with, "And also with you." One young lady—all of 10 or 11 years old—passed the Peace to me. It was so unexpected, and she seemed so shy. Yet she noticed I was new and reached out of her comfort zone in the loveliest, demure voice, "The Peace of the Lord be with you." I was "blown away." It remains one of the most meaningful and treasured spiritual experiences of my life. I was pleased to respond to her "And also with you."

Now may "The peace of the Lord be with you."

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born . . ."

Luke 2:4–6

Advent Devotion by Charles Roof



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(what was THAT all about) and the _____!

↳ The secret of Happy Holidays... _____

is _____ (a.k.a. "kenosis")

↳ Start by _____

CHRISTMAS IN KENOSIS — Philippians 2:1–13

HOW TO STAY MISERABLE...

☹ Expect _____

☺ Expect _____ to _____ like Y

☹ Expect that _____

EMPTYING EXPECTATIONS

1. Re-Thinking: Emptying _____

... hope... faith... vision: I choose to be _____

and _____ to what God will do.

2. Re-Relating: Kenosis makes _____

(think love) _____

... Right now, _____ (*aphiemi* = forgiver or let go)

3. Re-Christmasing: Peace on (my) earth — know where _____

... Good... NO, _____ is _____ so

_____!

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