Joy At Christmas:

Because it is going to get better.

Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 11:2-11

Isaiah 35:1-10

* 1. The oracle of God concerning the remnant of Israel was that He will change their estate in an instant from poverty and loss to prosperity and joy when God reveals His glory in Zion (vv. 1-2).
	2. The instruction of God to Israel was to encourage the anxious, tired and fearful pilgrims returning to God because of the change in their circumstance. (vv. 3-10).
		1. The nature of Israel’s circumstance is that God would avenge evil and save his people on their journey home to Zion (vv. 3-4).
		2. The change of circumstance of the pilgrims to Zion resulted in spiritual renewal and restoration of blessing (vv. 5-7)
	3. The way to spiritual renewal and blessing is the Highway of Holiness (vv. 8-10).
		1. The purpose of the Highway of Holiness is guide the one walking in holiness and to protect the redeemed on their journey home (vv. 8-9).
		2. The aim of the Highway of Holiness is to lead the redeemed to eternal joy (v.10).

Matthew 11:2-11

* 1. The question of John the Baptist to Jesus was regarding the identity of Jesus as the Messiah (vv. 2-3).
	2. The instruction of Jesus to the disciples of John the Baptist was for them to report to John the Baptist the words and deeds of Jesus (vv. 4-6).
		1. The words and deeds of Jesus restored spiritual renewal and blessing (vv. 4-5).
		2. The blessing of Christ is extended to those who accept the nature of his messiahship and kingdom (v. 6).
	3. Jesus evaluates the identity of John the Baptist (vv. 7-11).
		1. Jesus identifies John the Baptist as the prophet points to Jesus as the Messiah (vv. 7-10).
		2. Jesus identifies John the Baptist as a fulcrum that establishes a new era (v. 11).

Joy At Christmas:

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Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 11:2-11

1. God promised it would get better to Israel (Isaiah 35:1-10).
	1. God promised to take Israel from poverty and loss to prosperity and joy (vv.1-2a).
	2. God promised to change Israel’s estate when God revealed His glory (v. 2b).
	3. God promised to save those returning to Him (vv. 3-4).
	4. God promised that his salvation would bring healing and restoration of blessing (vv. 5-7).
	5. Israel would experience God’s promise only through the way that God provides (vv. 8-10).
		1. God’s way would guide the one walking in holiness and protect them on their journey home (vv. 8-9).
		2. God’s way would lead the redeemed to eternal joy (v.10).
2. God’s promise is accomplished in Jesus (Matthew 11:2-11).
	1. The identity of Jesus was questioned by John the Baptist (the Messiah) (vv. 2-3).
	2. Jesus affirmed his identity as the Messiah (vv. 4-11).
		1. Jesus provides healing and restoration of blessing (vv. 4-5).
		2. The only path to joy is by accepting the nature of Jesus’ messiahship and kingdom (v. 6).
		3. John the Baptist is the prophet who points to Jesus as the Messiah (vv. 7-10).
		4. John the Baptist was a fulcrum that established a new era (v. 11).
3. God’s promise must be personally applied.
	* When we hit rock bottom.
	* In order to receive healing and blessing.
	* By accepting the messiahship and kingdom that Christ offers
	* In order to experience eternal joy.

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Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 11:2-11

1. God promised to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it would get better (Isaiah 35:1-10).
	1. God promised to take Israel from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and loss to prosperity and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vv.1-2a).
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	3. God promised to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those returning to Him (vv. 3-4).
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3. God’s promise must be personally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	* When we hit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bottom.
	* In order to receive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	* By accepting the messiahship and kingdom that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offers.
	* In order to experience eternal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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