



the **Chronicles of Christmas**

Advent Devotional Series, 2005

It's a Story of Sin

The week
of
December
4:
[It's a Story
of God on
the Move](#)

The week
of
December
11:
[It's a Story
of Sin](#)

The week
of
December
18:
[It's a Story
of Love](#)

The week
of
December
25:
[It's a Story
of the
Difference a
Day Can
Make](#)

The week
of January
1:
[It's a Story
of Sacrifice](#)

The week
of January
8:

The Week of December 11

"...I didn't like to mention it before (he being your brother and all) but the moment I set eyes on that brother of yours I said to myself 'Treacherous,'" [said Mr. Beaver.] "He had the look of one who has been with the Witch and eaten her food. You can always tell them if you've lived long in Narnia; something in their eyes."

"All the same," said Peter in a rather choking sort of voice, "we'll still have to go and look for him. ..."

"Go to the Witch's House?" said Mrs. Beaver. "Don't you see that the only chance of saving either him or yourselves is to keep away from her?..."

... You mustn't think that even now Edmund was quite so bad that he actually wanted his brother and sisters to be turned into stone. He did want Turkish Delight and to be a Prince (and later a King) and to pay Peter out for calling him a beast. As for what the Witch would do with the others, he didn't want her to be particularly nice to them – certainly not to put them on the same level as himself; but he managed to believe, or to pretend he believed, that she wouldn't do anything very bad to them, "Because," he said to himself, "all these people who say nasty things about her are her enemies and probably half of it isn't true. She was jolly nice to me, anyway, much nicer than they are. I expect she is the rightful Queen really. Anyway, she'll be better than that awful Aslan!" At

least, that was the excuse he made in his own mind for what he was doing. It wasn't a very good excuse, however, for deep down inside him he really knew that the White Witch was bad and cruel.

From "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", Book 2 of The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

When Edmund's deception and lies are discovered, the children begin to understand the danger they are facing. Jadis, the White Witch, not only wants to capture them, she wants to usurp their rightful positions as heirs to the throne of Narnia. She fears the prophecies' fulfillment because she knows it will end her power there.

Jadis uses intimidation, lies, mocking and manipulation to persuade Edmund that Aslan is a cruel dictator. She suggests that it is not only difficult to know who is 'right', but it is best to play it safe and depend on someone powerful (like herself) to defend and protect Edmund's future. She plays to Edmund's pride, selfishness and greed. He decides, with some degree of fear, to succumb to these very human temptations. In doing so, he becomes a traitor and violates the laws of Narnia. Unfortunately it is the Law of the land of Narnia— the traitor pays for his deception with his own life!



Daily Scripture Readings

Day One: Genesis 2:4-17, Romans 2:1-11, Hosea 6:1-7

Day Two: Genesis 2:18-25, Romans 3:21-26, Hosea 11:1-12

Day Three: Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 4:13-25, Hosea 14:1-7

Day Four: Genesis 3:8-13, I Cor. 15:20-28, Malachi 1:6-11

Day Five: Genesis 3:14-24, I Cor 15:45-58,

Prayer

O God our Father,
Who has set forth the way of life for us in Thy
beloved Son:
We confess with shame our slowness to learn of
Him,
Our reluctance to follow Him.
Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not
given heed;
Thy beauty has shone forth and we have been
blind;
Thou has stretched out Thy hands to us through
our fellows and we have passed by.
We have taken great benefits with little thanks;
We have been unworthy of Thy changeless love.
Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

From the Covenant Service, Celtic Daily Prayer © 2000
Harper San Francisco, Northumbria Community Trust. p. 316



Journaling

- Is God on the move in your life today? Or do you have some 'desert places' that need His Hand of renewal and healing? Ask God to change and renew a right Spirit within you by praying Psalm 51 aloud to Him. Write down your heart's response to God.
- What can you do to insure that your home does not fall into the spell of 'always winter and never Christmas'?
- Theologian Karl Barth once said that pastors should write their sermons "with a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other." (The equivalent today might be a Bible and Google™!) The challenge

remains for us to try to live out our faith in our culture. As you read your paper or listen to the news today, where do you see that God is on the move in our world?

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