

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



I cannot help but think of Christmas as one of the ultimate seasons of fellowship and time with family and friends. This jubilant text and tune pairing makes me think of this hymn as more of a conversation. I could imagine it being sung in a home around the tree or table on Christmas day. You know the setting, it's cold out and the fireplace is putting off more heat than you anticipated. The scene is something off the cover of a Christmas card that you just remembered you forgot to send. You are with your family and friends and in spite of all of life going on around you, everything feels about as right as it ever could. Then the stories start to be shared. The story time at any family gathering usually begins with some embarrassing humor, but then often turns into more serious and meaningful stories. Stories that remember and point back to significant events in the family's life.

Eventually in the story sharing, perhaps the eldest in the room (or the wisest) begins to talk about the meaning of Christmas overall. You know the person in any family that keeps them grounded. He or she reminds you that with all of your being you should not forget that Jesus was indeed born. That's what this day is all about. During a time when many were waiting for a king or someone with great power to appear, the Savior of the world appeared, crying in a manger!

The story of the season continues to remind us that Jesus was born to save us all from death. The Messiah has arrived. What a relief! (But don't forget it).

Though the real story telling may not last as long at the family gathering before it's on to other events of the day, for a moment everyone stops, listens, and remembers the meaning for it all. Maybe in the brief remembering of this big story we find ourselves in we somehow resolve to continue to sing this Christmas carol by the lives we live. Christ was born for this!

© 2012 Trey Harper