

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

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Who Is Watching?

As I sat in the balcony of our sanctuary on a recent Sunday morning, I observed a special moment, perhaps even a sacred moment. Pastor had called the children to the front of the church for his unique message for them. I would guess their ages ranged from nine to perhaps two and a half or three years. It was the little guy who caught my attention. He sat cross-legged as the others did. He paid attention to the words and actions of the pastor and at the end, when the pastor asked, "Will you pray with me?" this young boy looked at the other children fold their hands and bow their heads, and he did too. He followed the example set by the others. He was watching and paying attention to what the others were doing. And he imitated what they were demonstrating in their worship.

It was at that time that I wondered, "Who am I watching? Whose example am I following?" And not only that, but "Who is watching me? Who is following the example I am setting?"

During the season of Advent, while we are preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ and the celebration of Christmas, we have opportunities to read devotionals, to attend worship services, be involved in Bible study, and go to a variety of get-togethers. Are we aware that others are looking at



us to be an example worth following? Do they see us imitating Christ in our actions and attitudes? What do others see in us when the lines are

long and slow at checkouts? Or when our timetable is disrupted when traffic is snarled?

Ephesians 5:1-2 ~ *Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

3 John 11~ *Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God....*

The Gospel of Luke gives many examples of people watching Jesus, but even as he hung on the cross, *The people stood by watching* (Luke 23:35). And we also are encouraged to be watchful in 1 Corinthians 16:13,14 ~ *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith...let all you do be done in love.*

If we know that people are watching us, we will want to be the example of people who trust in a loving Father, who have the assurance of the forgiveness of sins and salvation through our faith in Jesus Christ, and have the hope of eternal, resurrected life. What does that look like for you and for me?



During this Advent/Christmas season we would do well to look not only at Jesus, but also at other Bible characters.

- How can we imitate the faith and obedience of Mary?
- When have we doubted our circumstances or needed forgiveness and restoration as Peter received?
- Can we share our faith with the boldness of Paul?
- Who needs to hear our testimony of God's grace?

Who am I watching? Who am I imitating? Who is watching me?

For helps with celebrating the Advent and Christmas season, check out resources found on the LWML website:

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/category/christmas>

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/category/advent>

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