



The Serious Joy of Christmas

The juxtaposition of the Christmas tree and the nativity scene remind us of the paradoxes that confront us during the Christmas season.

Christmas is a time of joyful celebration, but it is also a time for serious reflection. With family and friends we enjoy celebrating by buying gifts, decorating trees, stringing

up lights, gathering for dinners, opening presents and passing along our traditions to another generation.

Knowing that Jesus has come for us, that God is with us, that no greater gift was ever given to us, fills us with joy. But it is a joy tinged with serious reflections. The manger points forward to the cross as Jesus came to give his life for us. The season reminds us of the price that Jesus paid for our redemption and it also reminds us of our great need for him. We see our brokenness and our sin in a new light.

The Christmas season can be quite difficult for many of the people we serve at Washington Street Mission. While they share in the joy of the season in many ways, they often remember happier times. Broken relationships and fractured families come to the forefront of their minds and they wish they could change many of the choices they have made and the directions their lives have taken. Our regrets surface in a special way at this time of the year.

As we decorate the Christmas trees at the Mission or sing Christmas carols together, we often hear stories of heartache and the desire for a new life and restored relationships with other people and with God. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel message.

You can help us bring the true message of Christmas to more people this year at Washington Street Mission. Your generous support during this special season of the year will make a difference.



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