



How Do You Prepare for Christmas?

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'*"



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Christmas Greetings

KING SIZE BED

Christ is born,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again,
and through Him we will rise!

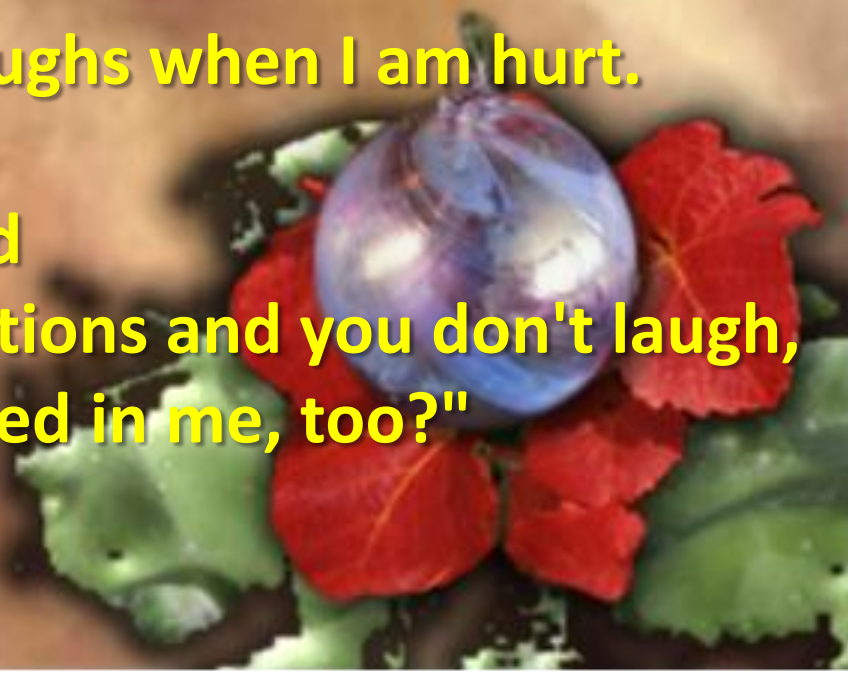


**Do you know, do you understand
that you represent Jesus to me?**

**Do you know, do you understand
that when you treat me with gentleness,
it raises the question in my mind that maybe he is gentle,
too?**

Maybe he isn't someone who laughs when I am hurt.

**Do you know, do you understand
that when you listen to my questions and you don't laugh,
I think, "What if Jesus is interested in me, too?"**



**Do you know, do you understand
that when I hear you talk about arguments
and conflict and scars from your past
that I think, "Maybe I am just a regular person
instead of a bad, no-good, little girl who deserves abuse?"**

**If you care, I think maybe he cares -- and then there's this
flame of hope
that burns inside of me, and for a while,
I am afraid to breathe because it might go out.**

**Do you know, do you understand
that your words are his words?
Your face, his face to someone like me?**



**Please be who you say you are.
Please, God, don't let this be another trick.
Please let this be real. Please.**

**Do you know, do you understand
that you represent Jesus to me?**



A brick sign with a white panel containing a quote. The sign is made of red brick with white mortar. It has two pillars on either side, each topped with a white spherical finial. The sign is set against a background of trees and a clear blue sky.

**"The Word made flesh
and swelling among us."**