

As a boy in Sarawak: Looking forward to flying my home-made kite

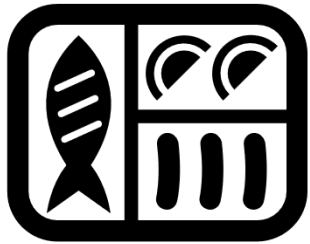


<https://youtu.be/E6MwpoOYyqU>

First Sunday in Advent: **Looking forward to meet the Master**



<https://www.hopestreamradio.com/king-son-and-saviour-the-first-noel-and-the-visit-of-the-magi/>



Luke 12:29-37 (NIV) [1]

²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.

³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

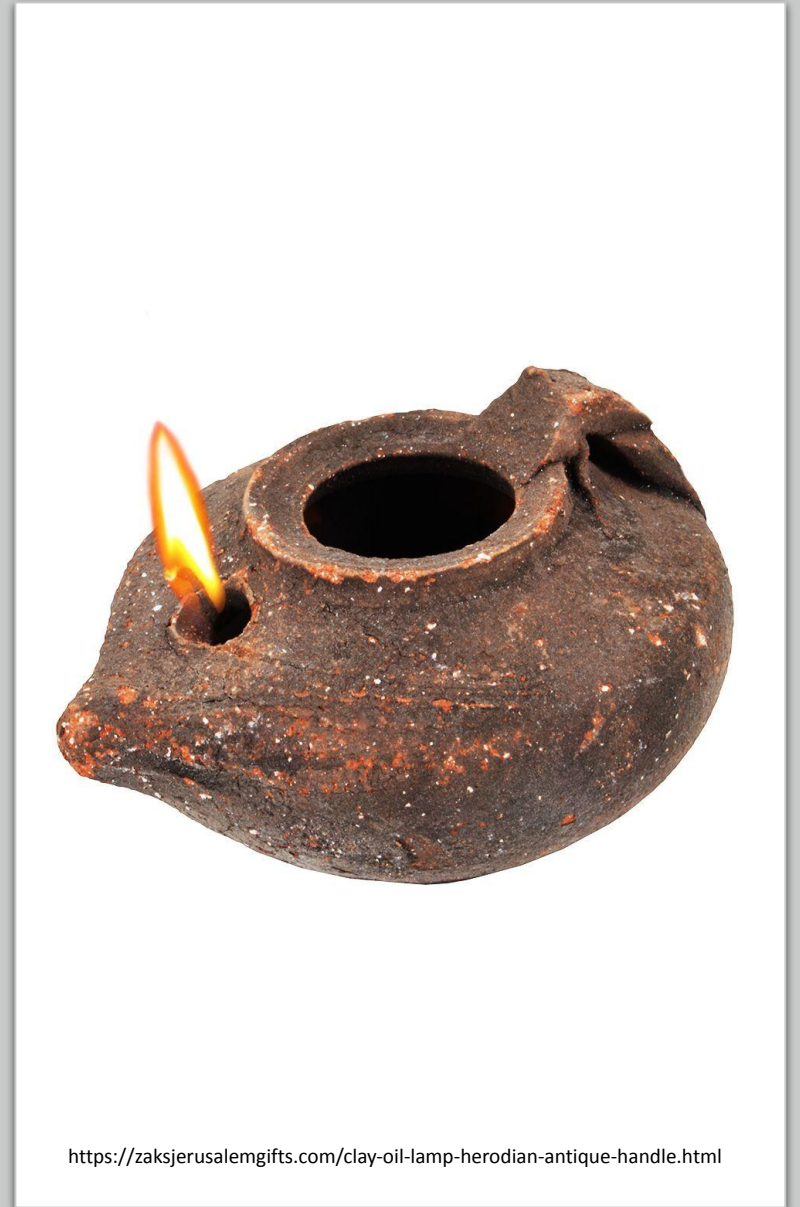
Luke 12:29-37 (NIV) [2]

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

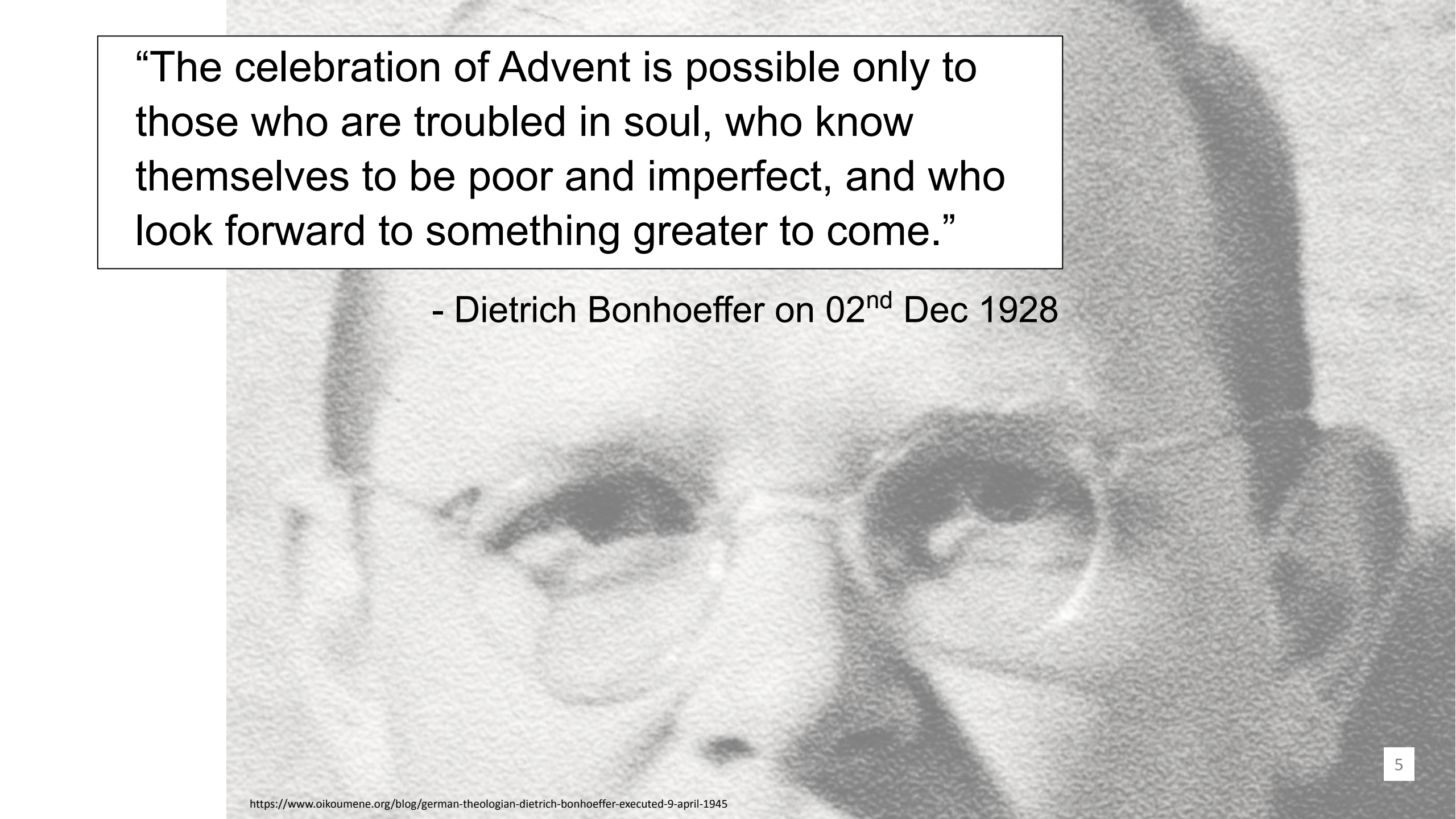
³⁵ "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,

³⁶ like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.

³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.



<https://zaksjerusalemgifts.com/clay-oil-lamp-herodian-antique-handle.html>



“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer on 02nd Dec 1928

1. Do not run after the things of this world

As Jesus Himself says in Luke 12:29-30,

²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.

³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.



1. Do not run after the things of this world

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

(Luke 12:13-15 NIV)



<https://smallbusiness.co.uk/dividing-equity-pie-running-business-2534212/>

1. Do not run after the things of this world

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." (2Th 3:10 NIV)



1. Do not run after the things of this world

¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,

¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,

¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

(Deut 8:11-14 NIV)

2. Let go of earthly security and start depending on God

Luke 12:31-34 says,

³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Let go of earthly security and start depending on God

²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! (Luke 12:24 NIV)

²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! (Luke 12:28 NIV)

“Saudara harus menjadi desperate” (You need to become desperate)

Miracles always happen unexpectedly, when we lose hope, in difficulties. When we ask where is God and we call out to Him for help, and He reaches out and helps us. If you want a miracle tonight, you need to become desperate. People ask me, “Jim, why are there so many miracles in Papua, much more than in Jakarta?” Because the people in Papua are more desperate than the people in Jakarta. In Papua there is no House of Siloam for the sick. There are no fantastic facilities like there are here (in Jakarta). If God does not involve Himself in their daily lives, they will not be able to cope with the big challenges in their lives there.

- Jim Yost, American missionary to Papua, Indonesia

3. Invest in the kingdom to come

³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

(Luke 12:33 NIV)

In Luke 16, from the parable of the shrewd manager:

⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

(Luke 16:9 NIV)

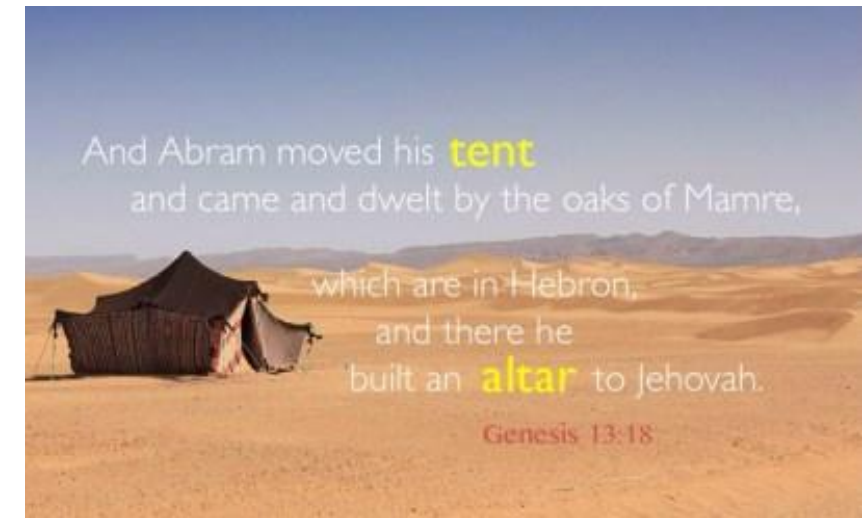
Investing in the kingdom to come Requires faith that sees very far

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Heb 11:1 NIV)

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Heb 11:8-10 NIV)



Preparing to meet the Master: Four steps from Luke 12

1. Do not run after the things of this world
 2. Let go of earthly security and start depending on God
 3. Invest in the kingdom to come
- and
4. Look forward to meet the Master



4. Look forward to meet the Master

³⁵ "**Be dressed ready** for service and **keep your lamps burning**,

³⁶ like men **waiting for their master** to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can **immediately open the door** for him.

³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master **finds them watching** when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. (Luke 12:35-37 NIV)

²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mat 20:28 NIV)

Let the little children come to me

¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Mat 19:14 NIV)

