

Hymn 133:
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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ADVENT

JOY

1 Christmas = Good News of Great Joy

The background of the image is a deep blue, starry night sky. In the center, there is a bright, glowing nebula or galaxy core, characterized by a dense concentration of stars and a soft, purple and blue glow. The overall effect is a serene and cosmic atmosphere.

1 Christmas = Good News of Great Joy

Jesus' birth brought Great Joy

Luke 2:10

1 Christmas = Good News of Great Joy

Jesus' birth brought Great Joy

Jesus' life brought Great Joy

Luke 19:37

1 Christmas = Good News of Great Joy

Jesus' birth brought Great Joy

Jesus' life brought Great Joy

Jesus' resurrection brought Great Joy

Matthew 28:8

2 Are you Joyful?

Q: Is your life marked by Joy?

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Joy Defined:

Joy is “*gladness experienced*”, the result of a mindset of *certain hope* acting out in humility and gentleness by putting others first and considering their needs more important than my own. When we pray for joy, God gives us the opportunity to to be exceedingly joyful in that He gives us the opportunity to live for others.

2 Are you Joyful?

Q: What is OUR “certain hope?”

Titus 2:11-13



O come, O come Immanuel...



Immanuel has already come.



We've had one coming, yes. But what about second coming?

Malcolm Muggeridge—

“In the war, when I was in North Africa, I heard some lieutenant colonel first use the phrase ‘displaced person.’ That phrase was very poignant to me. But it’s also a very good definition of a person who’s come to see that life is not about carnal things, or success, but is about eternity rather than time ... I don’t really belong here, I’m simply staying here...”


2 Are you Joyful?

Q: Is your life marked by Joy?

Q: Are you a joyful person?

We can all be joyful:
it's a fruit of the Spirit
(Gal. 5:22)

Application: How can I experience JOY in
my life this Christmas?

The background of the image is a deep blue, starry night sky. In the lower right quadrant, there is a large, diffuse nebula or galaxy core, characterized by a mix of purple, magenta, and blue hues, with a denser, brighter center. The rest of the sky is filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness.

Application: How can I experience JOY in my life this Christmas?

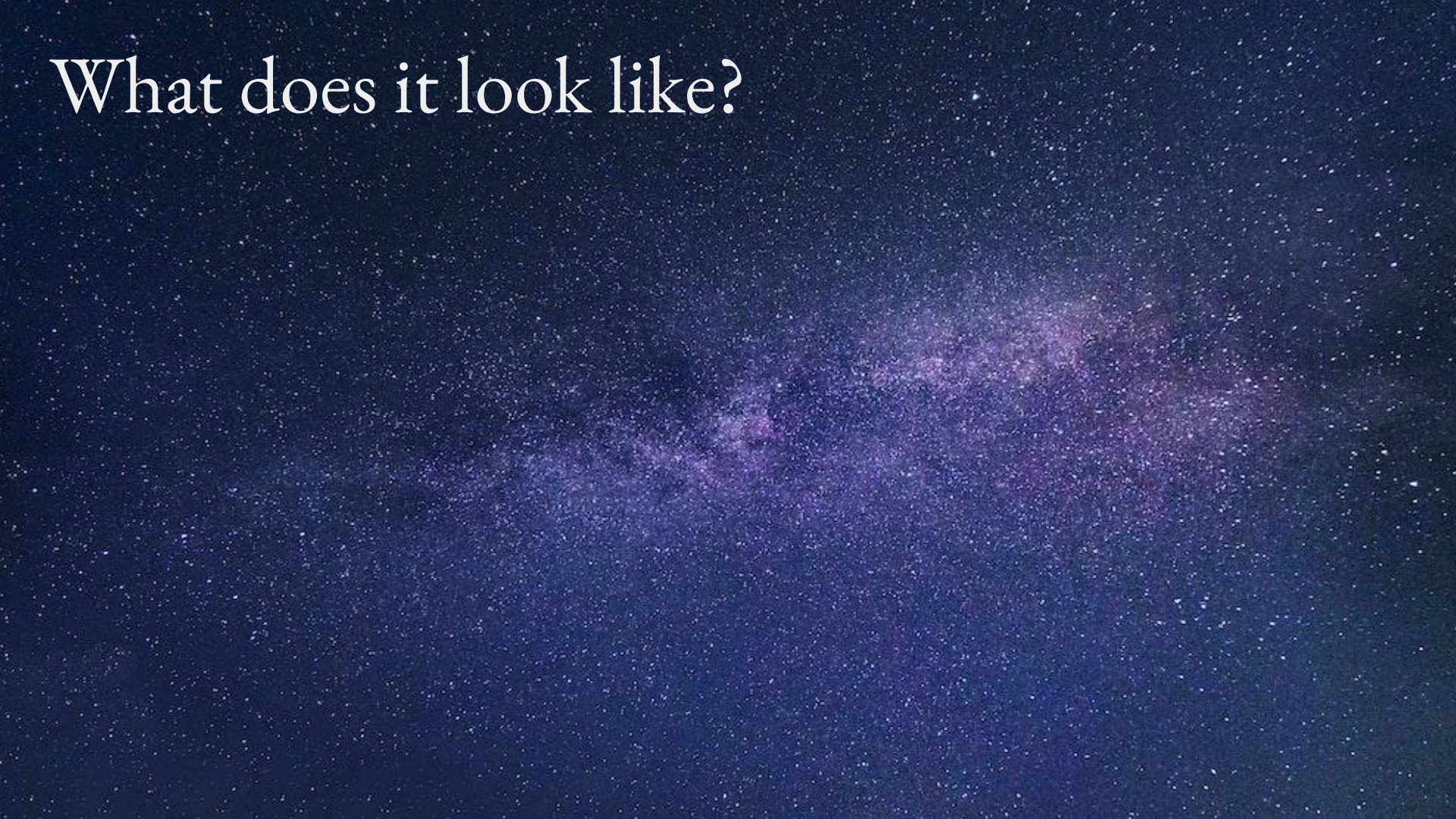
Heb. 12:2 For the joy set before Him

Application: How can I experience JOY in my life this Christmas?

Heb. 12:2 For the joy set before Him

I Peter 1:3-9 Joy inexpressible

What does it look like?



Jesus described Himself once:

Matthew 11:28-30–

“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

What does it look like?

Phil. 2:1-4, 5-8

Put others **FIRST!**

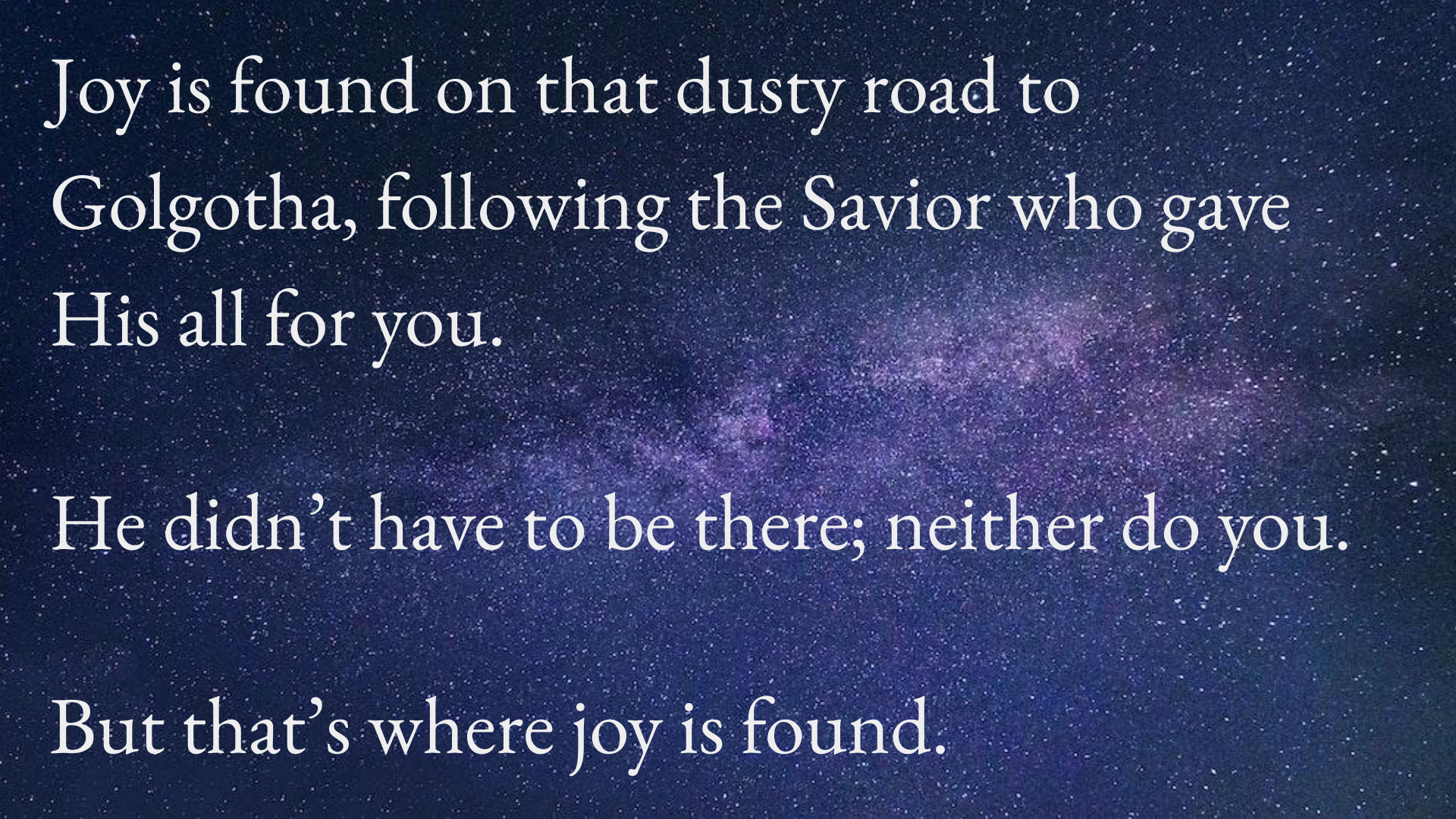
Bow low in prayer, stay there in humility.

What does it look like?

Martin Lloyd-Jones, England, shortly after WWII:

“How often during that last war were we told of the extraordinary scenes in air-raid shelters; how different people belonging to different classes, there, in the common need to shelter from the bombs and death, forgot all the differences between them and became one. This was because in the common interest they forgot their divisions and distinctions.”

Not in the roar of the crowd,
Nor the glare of the spotlights,
Nor the applause at your accomplishments;
Those may bring temporary happiness,
but typically not JOY.



Joy is found on that dusty road to
Golgotha, following the Savior who gave
His all for you.

He didn't have to be there; neither do you.

But that's where joy is found.