

A Christmas Carol: "Facing My Future"

I. Facing My "Woulda, Coulda's"

Video Clip 1 from "A Christmas Carol" (1:11:06 -1:14:06)

Video Clip on line

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/motorcyclist-rescued-from-underneath-burning-car-speaks-out-praises-good-samaritans-who-rescued-him/> on September 15, 2011

II. Joseph O.T. and Joseph N.T.

A. O.T. Joseph

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50: 20 (ESV)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope Jeremiah 29: 11. (ESV)

B. N.T. Joseph

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1: 18-21 (ESV)

Video Clip 2 – A Christmas Carol (1:17:35-1:20:31)

III. Five "I Wills" for 2012

1. I will be more childlike

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18: 1-4 (ESV)

2. I will forgive

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)

You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

3. I will be a person of the Book

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (TNIV)

4. I will fight one enemy – Satan

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10: 17-18 (ESV)

5. I will give myself away using crazy love.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10: 45 (ESV)