

A blue-toned illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, Mary and Joseph are shown with the infant Jesus in a manger. Several shepherds are gathered around, some kneeling in adoration. A bright, multi-pointed star shines in the dark sky above the scene. The background features silhouettes of trees and a distant cityscape.

Malachi 3:1-5

“Terrifying Joy”

Introduction: Expectations

The “Big Idea”

We can find JOY in
Jesus knowing we no
longer have to live in
OPPOSITION to God.

A. God Comes Close

The CLOSER we come to
God the more we will
be REFINED.

B. Judgment for Christmas

**The birth of Jesus fully
EXPOSES our SINS.**

John 3:20-21

Everyone who does
evil hates the light,
and will not come
into the light

**for fear that their
deeds will be
exposed.**

**But whoever lives by
the truth comes into
the light,**

**so that it may be
seen plainly that
what they have
done.**

**has been done in the
sight of God.**

C. New Image

IN Jesus we now
have God's IMAGE
stamped in our lives.

The “Big Idea”

We can find JOY in
Jesus knowing we no
longer have to live in
OPPOSITION to God.

D. Joyful

John 3:16

**For God so loved the
world that he gave
his one and only Son,**

**that whoever
believes in him shall
not perish but have
eternal life.**

MERCY and
COMPASSION to
others is our greatest
offerings of
righteousness.

Matthew 28:8

So the women
hurried away from
the tomb, afraid
yet filled with joy,

**and ran to tell his
disciples.**

**Suddenly Jesus met
them. “Greetings,” he
said.**

**They came to him,
clasped his feet and
worshiped him.**

1 Peter 1:9

....that you may
declare the praises of
him

**who called you out of
darkness into his
wonderful light.**

MERCY and
COMPASSION to
others is our greatest
offerings of
righteousness.

Action Point”

Allow God’s refining of
your ATTITUDES and
ACTIONS toward others
this season of advent.

