

## The Last of A Christmas Series

*Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom.*

Luke 12-32 (CEB)

### God's Unexpected Gifts Boldness and Joyfulness

I'm tired and today's talk will be short and from a bit of personal perspective. The joy and miracles of Christmas are past and an entirely New Year is just around the proverbial corner. I intend to move boldly forward into the year 2023 knowing full well I wrote very similar words during the final week of 2019. Then on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a "pandemic". We still feel the remnants of Covid even today. My goal for all of us is to set our minds toward being both bold and joyful as we move forward.

Are you with me?

I might have been tempted in the past to tiptoe through life. Perhaps I've been concerned that living with too much enthusiasm might threaten whatever degree of spiritual awareness I had achieved.

Jesus had a different message. Jesus set a different example. Jesus lived his life boldly, whether he was teaching, demonstrating, or sharing a meal with friends. He could have separated from the world for a life of quiet contemplation. Instead, he carried his radically new spiritual message into the very heart of the world in which he lived.

By following the Jesus example, I accept the joys and challenges it will contain. My question is: Will you all unite with me and others reading this message, and refrain from being afraid. Know that together, we can move through life boldly and joyfully.

May God's Presence be with us all in the New Year and beyond.

*Peace Always,  
Ted*