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QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe where you are right now?
2. How might God be trying to meet you in that place, in both expected and unexpected ways?
3. What are some ways that you can remember, or remind yourself, that God wants to be with you right where you are?

I have always loved the Christmas season: the hustle and bustle, the lights, the music, the energy. Despite all of the commercialization, there is just something magical about Christmas time. And yet, there is one thing that always gets worse around the holidays and tries to ruin this feeling: Lines. I hate waiting in long lines. Besides one time when I witnessed a fellow line-dweller have a pizza delivered to them while they waited, I have never found a shopping line memorable. Waiting in line is one of those times in life when I would rather be anywhere other than where I happen to be. But, unless you have TSA precheck at the airport, lines are just an inevitable part of life. This has me thinking about God's desire to not only meet us, but also God's ability to meet us right where we happen to be.

In Genesis 3:9, God calls out to Adam and Eve asking them, "Where are you?" One could theologially dissect this verse and this question in many different ways, but I will invite you to reflect as if God is asking you the same question, "Where are you?"

The simplest answer to this question is that you are exactly where you are. Whether your answer to that question is a physical place, a mental place, an emotional place, a spiritual place, or a combination therein, you are in no other place than the one you are in. No matter if that place is the best place on earth or it's your equivalent to being stuck in a long line, I have some good news for you - some "tidings of great joy," if you will. **God not only can meet you, but He wants to meet you right where you are.** In Luke 2, God met the shepherds out in the fields while they were watching their sheep at night. They were at work, during the night shift, on the lonely outskirts of town. It was probably not the most desirable place to be, and yet, God met them. That itself was the good news: not that their immediate situation was changing, but that God had come to be with them, and even more, to be with them in the surprising form of a newborn baby.

I invite you to remember that, no matter your current place or circumstance, we have a God who not only promises to be with us, but who also desires to be with us, too.

 BETHANY'S HOLIDAY PLAYLIST

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