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## Advent Means Laughter is Coming

My family and I just had the most wonderful experience of having one of my brothers and his family (along with my mother and my wife's sister and her family) in our home for the Thanksgiving holiday! Talk about a houseful...of laughter! I mean we were literally laughing, smiling and sharing in all of the Thanksgiving fixin's till my face hurt from smiling that much for so many days! 5 Days! My personal experience caused me to question the idea that house guests are like "fish, and begin to stink after 3 days." Ha-Ha! Not so, in this case! Each day was better than the day before, and AFTER my mother and sister-in-law left, we still had 11 people in our home the rest of the time!

I must admit that at the center of our joy was the Gospel of Humanity's Adoption and Inclusion into the Life of the Trinity, graciously in Jesus, which we all are learning to embrace in Jesus! It dominated our conversation and deeds, and even resulted in my brother and I deciding that we needed to partner up in creating new congregational worship songs that emphasize the Trinity and humanity's adoption in Jesus. In fact, we have already written such a song and sung it along with my church, New Creation Community Church, over the Thanksgiving weekend!

The Gospel so filled our fellowship and thinking that this very day, my sister-in-law sent me an e-mail that included the following statement about our time together: *"I could see your Dad in Mike and the same spirit that was in him is in Mike, like a duplicate but with distinction, like Father, Son, and Spirit. Another glimpse at Triune God."* As I was saying good night to my youngest daughter, Autumn, this evening, she mentioned to me that she just *"experienced the best week of my life!"* When I asked her *"Why?"* she said it was because she *"realized with the family being here that we are all connected!"*

All this share of good laughter and fellowship in family and the Gospel got me thinking about the Advent season and one of its significant results, and that is: Advent means laughter is on the way!!

As noted in an article about the Advent on Wikipedia: "Christians believe that the season of Advent serves a dual reminder of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting that Christians today endure for the second coming of Christ." - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent> Amen! The Season of Advent is all about God coming in the Messiah, Jesus, to be with *us!* And if Advent is all about the coming(s) of Jesus, then it is also about laughter! How do we know? Because of Who Jesus was and is at his comings – Fully God and *Fully Human!*

Though there is no scripture that speaks of Jesus laughing specifically, it must be true that he did so! Being that he had a fully human nature, is it conceivable to imagine Jesus as a baby and not giggling or laughing? Children and sinners were drawn to him (*Matt 19:13-17, Luke 7:34*)! Is it conceivable that they were drawn to a man who did not laugh, or at least smile easily? *Every* parable from Jesus in *Luke 15* ends in a party. Is it conceivable that Jesus loves to party, but not to laugh and smile? I thought that laughter and smiles were the definition of party? Ha-Ha!

And if laughter was a part of the life of Jesus, it means that laughter is something that the Father, Son and Spirit share in with us! Because laughter is good, and comes with all kinds of good benefits (including physical release, internal workout, and great social benefit), laughter must come from the

Father, Son and Spirit (*James 1:17*)!

And if Jesus shared laughter with us in his first advent (or coming), then we can expect to share in lots more laughter with him in His second coming because, as the two men in white robes said to the disciples: "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*"

The first Advent of the Trinity brought the Son of God into our humanity, and his messengers promise us that we will see this SAME Fully God and Fully Human Jesus in the Second Advent! So as we enter the Christmas and Winter season, along with some of the accompanying "Winter blah's", be encouraged in the increased laughter that often follows a focus on Jesus, and especially on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming that promises much more of it in All of Humanity's Adoption into the Life of the Trinity forever in Him! *Luke 6:21b, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."*

*~ Timothy Brassell*