

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Jerusalem: Without Hope

When we begin to feel hopeless here's what we tend to do:

- 1. We become more independent.**
- 2. We become more indignant.**
- 3. We become more indifferent.**

"Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hope for, we wait in the darkness for a flame we cannot light. We wait in fear for a happy ending we cannot write, and we wait for a 'not yet' that feels like a 'not ever.' Waiting is the hardest work of hope." – Lewis Smedes

"At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel." – Luke 2:25

"The Holy Spirit was upon him. And had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 'Lord, let me die in peace.'" – Luke 2:25-26, 29

"Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four (years old)." – Luke 2:36

"She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem." – Luke 2:37-38
