

Lights, Camera, Christmas
The Long Game: Reflection Guide
December 28, 2025

We've spent the last month looking at the "First Advent" through the eyes of those who were there.

How do these virtues prepare you for the **Final Restoration**?

- **Joseph (Obedience):** Trusting the Master's plan in the dark.

- **The Shepherds (Wonder):** Recognizing the extraordinary in the ordinary.

- **Mary (Surrender):** Saying "Yes" to God's impossible new creation.

2. The Master Restorer

God is not a "Scrap Metal Dealer" who throws away broken things. He is a **Master Luthier**.

- **Reflection:** He doesn't replace the wood; He heals the wood that was already there. What "charred fragments" of your life are currently in His workshop?

3. Shadow vs. Solid

Are you clinging to a "**Backsplash**" (a temporary comfort or 5-year plan) or reaching for the "**Castle**" (the solid, restored Kingdom)?

- **Thought:** C.S. Lewis reminded us that we often play with mud pies in a slum because we cannot imagine a holiday at the sea. Don't let your "disordered loves" make you fear the King's return.

4. The Mountain Task

The "Long Game" isn't just for us to think about; it's for us to announce.

- **Action:** Who in your life—a neighbor, a coworker, or a friend like Marty—needs to hear that the **Restoration** is coming?

- **Go Tell It:** Find one way to "turn the sleigh" and restore something for someone else this week.

"For he must remain in heaven until the time comes for the final restoration of all things..."

— Acts 3:21 (NLT)