***Jesus Will (because I will not)***

Philippians 2:5-8

On February 12, 1944, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank wrote the following words in her now-famous diary: Today the sun is shining, the sky is a deep blue, there is a lovely breeze and I am longing — so longing for everything. To talk, for freedom, for friends, to be alone. And I do so long … to cry! I feel as if I am going to burst, and I know that it would get better with crying, but I can’t, I’m restless, I go from room to room, breathe through the crack of a closed window, feel my heart beating, as if it is saying, can’t you satisfy my longing at last? I believe that it is spring within me, I feel that spring is awakening, I feel it in my whole body and soul. It is an effort to behave normally. I feel utterly confused. I don’t know what to read, what to write, what to do, I only know that I am longing*. Diary of Anne Frank*

This year’s Christmas series we called “Longing for Christmas” (Isaiah’s prophecies 9, 42, 53, 61)

**Joshua 24:19 (NIV)**

Joshua said… "*You are not able to serve the LORD*. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God….”

**Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)**

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)**
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

*Who will give hope to the hopeless? Who WILL please God when I am unwilling… unable?*

**Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)**
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

*So here’s what the Christmas story is all about: a willing Savior is born to rescue unwilling people from themselves. -* Paul David Tripp

**Jesus WILL when I will not!** (Philippians 2:5-11)

*Jesus says:*

* ***I WILL*** set aside my rightful glory for you. (2:7)
* ***I WILL*** serve you, because you will not serve me. (2:7)

**Mark 10:45 (NIV)**
For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, *but to serve*, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

* ***I WILL*** become a man so that you can become children of God.

(2:7)

**John 1:14 (NIV)**
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

* ***I WILL*** submit myself to death, so that you can live. (2:8)

*Jesus was laid in a manger so that He could lay down His life.*

**John 13:12 (NIV)**

***"Do you understand what I have done for you?"*** he asked them.

*(Christmas) reminds us that our past, present, and future hope rest not on our willingness, but on the willingness of the One for whom the angels sang, the shepherds worshiped, and the magi searched. Willing Jesus is the only hope for unwilling (flawed and failing) people like you and me)!* – adapted from Paul David Tripp, *Come Let Us Adore Him*