

Is There Any Room For Jesus?

- *Luke 2:1-7*

- It is a joy to see each of you today & I am so glad that you have made it a priority to worship God this morning. I will remind you that He should be our priority each & every day, but especially on the Lord's Day, Amen?
- This is one of the greatest times of the year & it is a time where people at least give thought of Christ & the miraculous surroundings of His birth. And this morning, I want us to look back on Jesus being born in a manger & the events surrounding His birth.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- This is a familiar passage of scripture, but it is one that holds so much insight as to not only the time of Jesus birth, but how His birth relates even to our day. I want you to notice a few things this morning.

1. There Was No Room For Jesus

- The Bible tells us that Mary & Joseph were traveling far from home while she was great with child & they searched for a place to stay & more importantly a place where Mary could be comfortable b/c she was close to delivering the Christ child.
- As they came to the inn that night, all that Luke records is that "there was no room for them in the inn." A short phrase, but a phrase that is indicative of the day & time that we are living in today. Since that day recorded in Luke 2, there has continued to be fewer & fewer who have room for Jesus.
 - This was God in human flesh, who came not to be a bother, not to condemn or to judge, but He came to save the very world that would find no room for Him, that would reject Him, and that would ultimately crucify the very One that came to save them.
 - But ... this was all a part of God's perfect plan.
- It wasn't by chance that the Bible records there was no room for him in the inn. I mean, this did not happen by chance or accident. It was fundamental to something that had been true about the Lord Jesus all of his earthly ministry, and is still true about the Lord Jesus. This world never has had room for the Lord Jesus.
 - Isaiah 53:3 – "He is despised and rejected of men." And as sad as it was that they had no room for Him in Bethlehem, the sad truth is that still today we have no room for Him.
 - Although God loved us so much that He sent His Only Son, the world as a whole did not want the Christ child.
- But why? Why did Bethlehem have no room for Jesus & even more important, why do we still have no room for Him today?
 - a. It is clear that the inn keeper had no idea who this Baby really was.
 - i. You know, I have to believe, if he understood who this baby was, I think he would have made room ... even given his own bed to make sure that the King of Kings had a place to lay His head.
 - ii. There were those who knew who Jesus was, that He would be born of a virgin; but this innkeeper was unaware of this fact, and he is forever known as one who never made room for Jesus.
 - iii. There are many today, dare I say perhaps even some in this room, that never take the time to make room for Jesus in their own lives. They make time in their lives for everyone & everything else but Christ. But they will see one day that they will stand without excuse when they stand before God.
 - iv. Though they may not have realized the importance of Christ in their lives here on earth, they will stand without excuse before a Holy God.
 - 1. Romans 1:20 – "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

b. I think we could also argue that the innkeeper was unconcerned about Christ.

i. Perhaps if he had taken the time to hear the story of how Mary had been visited by an angel, how the Holy Spirit came to her, how the angels proclaimed that the name Jesus would be given this child, and that He was the Son of God, maybe his attitude would have changed.

ii. Many today are unaffected & are unconcerned that Jesus came to this earth nor that He died for their sins. Indifference has filled their lives & they seem to be more concerned with their own lives than their need of a Savior.

- But once again, let me remind you. This was all a part of God's plan. This was prophesied even in the days of the OT prophets.
 - o Micah 5:2 – "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me, he shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
- What a tragedy to think that there was no room for Jesus. The Christ child came to give His life a ransom for many, and yet no one had room for Him.

2. He Was Despised & Rejected

- It's one thing that He was placed in a stable with the animals at His birth b/c no one would make any room, but things did not get any better the older He got.
 - o If you read the scriptures, you will see that Jesus was snubbed & rejected of His Kingly title by King Herod b/c of fear of Jesus & he was jealous of His notoriety & power. Instead of honoring Jesus, Herod sought to kill Him and to make an example of Him to others.
 - o At Nazareth, they rejected His claim b/c in their eyes, Jesus was nothing more than a carpenter's son, never realizing they had rejected the very Son of God.
 - o The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils.
 - o They criticized him for healing on the Sabbath.
 - o They judged Him by saying, "this man receives sinners and eats with them."
 - o Even one of His own followers complained that the alabaster box of ointment that was broken and anointed his head and his feet, should have been sold & given to the poor.
 - o They stripped Him of His clothes as He was crucified and then they gambled for his garments.
 - o And when He died in agony and gave up His life for the sins of all the world, they even rejected His resurrection of proof that HE truly was the Son of God.
- The truth is, there was no room for the Lord Jesus, in His birth, in His life, and even in His death. Is our world any different today?
 - o Do you understand that the documents & the structure of this great country at one time was founded on the principles of the Word of God; but look how far we have fallen as a nation.
 - We have allowed God to be kicked out of our schools. It hadn't been that long that the Bible was one of the essential textbooks in our school system & now you can't even have one or pass them out.
 - It's sad that it is OK to pass out contraceptives & teach an "alternate" lifestyle, but we can't have the Ten Commandments or God's Word infringing on the rights of others.
 - More and more, prayer is being scrutinized & criticized from every corner.
 - We send our kids into a battle zone everyday & then tell them we can't pray to their Heavenly Father.
 - Our soldiers are fighting enemies across our world & they are often times denied the right to pray & seek God's protection b/c it may offend others.
 - What really amazed me this past week is that in the midst of the horrific events surrounding San Bernardino, the ungodly Daily News, plasters on the front page these words ... "God Isn't Fixing This".

- What a disgrace! What an abomination to God! We have told God to get out of our lives & then when tragedy strikes, we blame Him for not doing anything.
 - Our judicial system has assumed more power than they have ever been given by the American people or especially by God, and have taken the initiative to redefine what God calls an abomination.
- But look at Psalm 2:2-3 – “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”
 - The government of Jesus' day when he came the first time had no place for him, King Herod had no place for Him. The Jews of that day said, We have no king but Caesar. And they chose a palace with Caesar than peace with the Lord Jesus Christ. And the government hasn't changed.
- This is one of the most sacred holidays in the Christian faith, and yet this Christmas season will be filled with drinking, adultery, ungodly parties, & many (even those in the church) are so consumed with buying presents & gifts, that we make very little time for Jesus in a time where what we celebrate should revolve around Him.
- There was no room for Jesus at His birth, and unfortunately there is still no room for Him. He was rejected & in many ways continues to be rejected today. The question remains is ...

3. Will You Make Room For Jesus?

- You see the bottom line is this. We can stand here and talk about history, we can talk about the failure of our Government, we can shake our heads at the wickedness of this world ... but what about you? What will you do with Jesus?
- If you allow this Christmas season to come & go & you only search for happiness in eggnog, parties & gifts, when December 26th rolls around, you will still feel empty. The only way we can find true contentment & satisfaction, not just at Christmas, but throughout our lives, is to find it in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Accept Christ As Your Savior**
 - i. What a tragedy to think that so many will celebrate a season this year they truly know nothing about.
 - ii. They will hear the songs sung, see the kid's plays, maybe even come to a Christmas service, and yet never accept the Christ Child, the very reason He came & the reason we celebrate.
 - iii. If you are here today & you don't know the Savior that we sing about, you can know Him today if you will believe in Him & place your trust in His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.
 - 1. That's why He came. He was born on earth so that He might die for our sins.
 - b. Remember What Christmas Is About**
 - i. Of all people, it is the church often times that forgets to remind not only themselves, but others, what this Christmas season is all about.
 - ii. What is Christmas to you? Is it just parties & gifts, friends and family, get togethers, or is it something more? We get so stressed out over making sure we have bought gifts for everyone & we rarely remember to bring our best to the Christ.
 - 1. I wished we thought as much about our walk with God as we did our shopping list.
 - 2. Just as a side note, Christmas is one of the times of the year where attendance in church drops. It's also a time of year where our tithes & offerings plummet. I wonder why???
 - c. Be Willing To Share The Greatest Story**
 - i. This is the season of celebration. It's a season of rejoicing. It's a season of victory b/c “God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son.”

- ii. What an opportunity we have this Christmas season to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ., the story of God's love for you & me.
- iii. We can't change the world per say, we can't guarantee that those we witness too will accept Christ, but what we can do is be faithful to proclaim the message.

d. Make No Room For The World

- i. If this world has no room for the Lord Jesus, why should we make room for this world? There's a time when we draw a line and we say, No, I don't care what others say, I don't care what others think, I will stand for Jesus in a world that made no room for Him.
 - ii. When he was here the first time he was rejected. Despised, rejected of men. When he was here the first time he stood before Pilate. When he comes again, Pilate will stand before him. When he came the first time, he came as a baby. When he comes again, he comes as a King. When he came the first time, he was rejected, but our Lord says, As I live saith the Lord, every knee will bow & every tongue will confess that He is Lord.
- So now, what decision will you make today? Will you make room for Him today? Will you do like many & just reject Him again, or will you trust Him today?