

IS THERE NO ROOM?

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TEXT:

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”
Luke 2: 7

PRELUDE:

Before we begin today, I want to share a little-known fact I uncovered while studying for this sermon.

When Jesus was born, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

Swaddling clothes were really burial garments. These were strips of cloth that a pregnant woman would have had prepared in case the baby died. Mary would have packed these swaddling clothes for her journey to Bethlehem in case the baby died on the way. If the baby died, they would have wrapped the baby in these swaddling clothes and buried him on the side of the road.

I was very interested to learn that in those times, when a baby was born, it would be washed and the body rubbed in salt to protect against infection. Then they would wrap the baby tightly in swaddling clothes.

The HOOK:

For 4,000 years the world had been looking for Christ. Prophets had been prophesying and the mothers of Israel had been praying, and yet there was no room for HIM in the inn when HE finally arrived!

HE might have come with all the grandeur and glory of heaven. HE might have been ushered into this world with 10,000 legions of angels. HE might have been born upon a throne, if HE had chosen to do so. It is very important to note why I chose the word “chosen”, because HE did choose to be born poor for your sake and mine. **“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”** 2 Corinthians 8: 9.

When HE came there were no “Hallelujahs” from the people on the night of HIS birth.

When HE arrived, not only Herod was troubled, but all the people of Jerusalem were troubled.“ Matthew 2: 3

It’s said of Jesus that HE had nowhere to lay HIS head. “And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”” Luke 9:58.

It’s said of Jerusalem, HIS royal city, they failed to see HIM as their heaven-sent Messiah. “Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.” John 11: 33. **“7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Therefore bear

fruits worthy of repentance, **9** and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. **10** And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:7- 10

Herod had no room for HIM. "**46** Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers." Luke 2: 46 & 47

The city of Jerusalem had no room for The Maker of heaven and earth. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." John 1: 11. The Royal Vineyard of all that's good came to HIS own, and they received HIM not.

It's said in the book of Revelation, Jesus stands at the door and knocks, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3: 20

Does the church today, in the 20th century, have any room for HIM?

I ask you all today, friend, do you have room for HIM in your heart and life?

Do you have room for The One who supplies strength for the weak? HE is always available for the tempted and tried. Do you have room for The Mighty One who strengthens and sustains? Friend, do you have room for HIM in your heart this morning?

The Wonderful, The Counselor, The everlasting Prince of Peace who cleanses lepers, forgives sinners, discharges debtors, delivers captives, defends the feeble, regards the aged, rewards the diligent, and beautifies the meek is waiting. Is there room for HIM this morning in your heart and soul?

May I remind you this morning that HIS goodness is limitless! His mercy is everlasting! HIS love never changes!

Oh brethren, I ask the church today, is there room for HIM?

I pray this year, in this season of Advent that you take HIM as your Saviour.

Make room for HIM today!!

The BOOK:

There was no room, and here are a few reasons why.

HE was not really handsome. He had no impressive form or majesty about HIM. HE was only the son of a humble carpenter. "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire Him." Isaiah 53: 2

It shows HIS humiliation. Here HE is born in a humble stable and laid in a manger. After HIS death on the cross, HE was laid in a borrowed tomb. Isn't that amazing?

Brethren the manger and the cross stand at the two extremities of The Saviour's life.

HE wears the garments of the lowly, not lavish kingly robes! He associates with fishermen, the lowly who are to become HIS disciples.

The cold mountains are often HIS only bed. "And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head." Matthew 8: 20

Nothing then could be more fitting than that in HIS season of humiliation, "but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men." Philippians 2: 7

Born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes (funeral garments), and laid in a lowly manger. "And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." Luke 2: 12

HE was declared to be the king of the poor! Children flocked to HIM "13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. 14 But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." 16 And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them." Mark 10: 13 - 16, and so did the poor and outcast. They recognized HIM! Their hearts leapt for joy in HIS company! "1 And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them." Mark 2: 1 & 2, WOW!!!!

Shepherds ran, it says they "ran hastily", to see the first glimpse of HIM! "And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2: 16

Brethren, in the eyes of the poor, imperial robes excite no affection! The splendid robes of Herod certainly excited no affection, but Jesus, the Bank of Mercy, was never bankrupt. HIS appearance excited the poor and oppressed who needed HIS hope and mercy!

The King of Men who was born in Bethlehem was not exempt from the common calamities of the poor! "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem," Matthew 2: 1 HE was, and still is the poor man's friend!! HE is the people's Monarch, for HE multiplies joy and divides grief! HE was, and always will be, The Shepherd King! For the great Prince of Peace, the manger was a royal cradle.

No-one is approachable as Christ! There are no rough Roman guards pushing poor petitioners away! No black-clothed CIA agents forcing you and your children back! The hem of HIS garment was always trailing where sick folk could reach it! "came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped." Luke 8: 44. HE always had a hand ready to touch the diseased, heal the infirm, and raise hope to new heights! HE always had an ear to catch the faintest of cries of misery and need!! HIS heart of mercy was always ready to meet the needs of humanity in HIS earthly ministry!

Brethren, even as an infant, by being laid in a manger, HE was set forth as the Friend of Sinners! HE is available to all and for all!!

The question today is, are you available?

HE is the Prince of the Faithful, and The Captain of your salvation. HE is not just any captain! HE is THE Captain!! "For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their

salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2: 10. In HIS presence “where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.” Colossians 3: 11. HE is The LORD of all! Hallelujah!!

Here is yet another reason. He issues an invitation for the most humble to come unto HIM! Brethren, we might tremble to approach a throne, but who would fear to approach a manger? There is, even now in this world of woe, no-one more approachable than Christ!

Approach HIM then! Come, let your heart reason with HIM, the ransomed seed of Israel’s race! Come to HM today, for HIS invitation is always, “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11: 28. HIS invitation is always open offering liberty to all. “The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; **2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,” Isaiah 61: 1 -2.

HE ate and drank with publicans and sinners. “And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Matthew 9: 11. In the manger HE lies unguarded from your touch and unshielded from your gaze.

Come, bow your knee, as the magi did, and kiss the SON of GOD! Accept HIM as your Saviour, for HE put Himself in that manger so that you and I could approach HIM! Have you ever considered how awesome this is?

The mighty throne of Solomon might awe you, but the manger of the Son of David invites you! Oh friend, this is a throne you can run to!!

Now, I want you to understand that the inn of Bethlehem was not like our hotels now, where accommodation must be paid for. No, in the early and simple ages of the world every man considered it an honour to entertain a stranger.

However, as travelling became more common, the glow of brotherly love cooled down, and the only provision made for travelers was the erection of huge, square blocks, arranged in rows of rooms, with lower floors for the animals, with the provision of clean water and sometimes some chopped straw for the cattle. Now, brethren, our LORD was born in such a place as this. To show how free HE is to all who come unto HIM! The glorious gospel is preached to every creature and shuts no-one out! I love it!!

Class exclusions are not known here. The prerogatives of position, caste, or social status are not acknowledged when we see Jesus.

No forms of etiquette are required to enter a stable. You don’t need a tuxedo. You don’t have to knock, so if you desire to come to Christ, you may come to HIM, just as you are! “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7: 25 (ESV).

Let’s probe this truth of holy scripture a little further. We shall look to other places if we have no room for Christ!

Friends, seldom is there room for Christ in the palaces of emperors. How could the kings of the earth receive the LORD? HE is the Prince of Peace, and so often they would rather delight in war. Over the past 3,400 years humans have been at peace for only 268 years. That is only 8% of man’s existence! So how could kings accept a humble Saviour?

They thrive on grandeur and pomp, and HE is all simplicity, meekness, grace and truth.

How could princes find room for the new-born monarch who lights every man and turns a heart of stone into a heart of flesh. "And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Ezekiel 36: 26. His golden teaching is a problem for kings. "30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. 31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men." Matthew 12: 30 - 31. This is a thing many a king would find hard to do. To reconcile love of neighbour with the tricks, and all its designs of selfish ambitions. There is no room for Christ with kings. "The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, *saying*," Psalms 2: 2

How about the places where the representatives of the people make laws? Friend, is there room for HIM there? Surely there must be room there!

No, even today, there is very little room for Christ in places like this within the parliaments of the world. How seldom is religion recognized, or prayer, by these representatives. Who pleads for Jesus in the senate, or the parliaments, or other assemblies of the world? Who dares to give HIM a good word? Who, in any country, involves HIM on national policy? Parties, policies, and lobbyists exclude the Representative of Heaven from a place among the representatives on earth.

Well, how about good society? Surely we are getting better?

Were there not, in Bethlehem, some people that were respectable. They kept to themselves despite working among the multitude. Were there not persons of good standing and worthy reputation? Could they not find room for Christ?

Sadly, it is too much the reality that there is no room for Christ in what is called "good society". There are rooms and clubs for every purpose. Rooms for vain niceties. Rooms for frivolous conversation, Rooms to adorn the body and clubs for physical fitness. But, sadly, there is no room for Christ! Do you know why?

It isn't fashionable to follow HIM. It just isn't fashionable to follow Christ!

The Advent of Jesus is the last thing that "good society" desires! Should you begin to talk about Christ in many a circle, you would be tabooed at once!

Well, wouldn't Christ be taken into the places of commerce? Isn't there room for HIM among the emporiums, the markets and bazaars? Surely there is room for HIM on Wall Street, or on Bay Street and the like? Is there not room for HIM there?

No, the trader finds Jesus inconvenient and out of step. They consider Christ to be out of step! The behemoths and titans of the business world have no room for Christ! Swindling and Ponzi schemes are so abundant that in scores of cases there is no room for Christ!

Oh, but surely there is room for Jesus in schools and places of higher learning? You would think so. It makes sense. Would not wise men find in HIM incarnate wisdom? HE, who as a boy of 12, could teach the doctors in the law and pose questions to stun the most learned of HIS day would surely be sought after here. Certainly, those who revered Socrates and Plato, and the teachers of Israel would have room for Christ!

No, sadly true today, often the institutions of learning are the forges upon which the nails for Christ's crucifixion are made! Too often human wit has been the blacksmith which has made the spear pointed into HIS side.

HE is not found in schools, for what is true most often, that being so stiff and stern in their concept of wisdom, many scoff and say, who is Christ that we should acknowledge HIM?

The TOOK:

Here is the Question, Have you room for Jesus? The palace, the parliament, the forum, the inn and the schools have no place for Christ.

What about you? Have you room for Christ? Shepherds came running to HIM. The magi traveled afar to find HIM. The LORD of all is available to all! The Master wants room! Have you room for a Saviour? Here, in the manger, The Son of GOD became flesh. Have you room for HIM?

For this reason, I shall expound! For when HE comes in, HE will never go out again, but will abide forever in your heart to make it a haven of joy and wonderful bliss.

Your emptiness, your lacking, your indebtedness, can all be filled by HIM! Have you room for HIM?

Friends, may I shower a huge thought upon your heart and mind now? I am going to change gears, here? Are you ready for this truth?

If you have room for Christ, the world has no room for you! There was no room for them that night. There was no room for Mary and Joseph. There was no room for The Son of GOD! There is no room for you to take your ease. There is no room to let go the glorious Gospel! There is no room for the soldier of the cross of Christ to be lax in warfare. There is no room for the Child of The King to not run the race for Christ!

My friends, there is no room for you to take your confidence in any other than Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith! "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him," Hebrews 5: 9. Yes, HE is the way and the truth for you! "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14: 6.

Today is the accepted time. "For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6: 2

I implore you, give HIM room today! Say to HIM, lodge in my heart, lodge here forever! Take HIM today as the consolation of Israel. Make room for HIM.

Is there room in your heart for a Saviour? If you seek HIM, you too can find HIM. Have you room for HIM?

We are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of GOD! Are you willing to let Jesus in?

Let every heart prepare a throne! Let every heart rejoice!

The Saviour reigns in my heart! Today, are you willing to receive this holy traveler? I am so glad that I found room for HIM! I am so glad that I let HIM in! I am forever thankful that HE has never left me!!

May the LORD help you to do the same!

To GOD be the glory forever!!