

DAY 5: Time to find a place for the King – the manger birth room

“...and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” Luke 2:7

First time parents take pride in preparing as much as they can for what is to come, especially for the firstborn. That was not the case for Mary and Joseph. Aside from whatever Mary was able to learn while staying with Elizabeth, they found themselves away from home and with no close support from relatives during this crucial time.

We know the town was full of visitors for the census. Scholars debate the existence or not of an ‘inn’ in Bethlehem as we know today. But the reality is that people did not make space for Mary and Joseph in their time of need. They found themselves in a stable having to improvise a birth room for the Messiah.

We know Micah’s prophecy placed the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, but did it need to be in a stable? People were probably too preoccupied with the little possessions they had with so many strangers in town. It seems their priority was to focus on themselves rather than hosting strangers from out of town in their homes.

Today, there are many preoccupied with what they’ll eat, keeping a roof over their heads or absorbed by their to do lists. For many, Jesus is a stranger relegated to church buildings or preached sermons. They have eyes only for what is material and temporary. Sadly, wake-up calls come in the form of life-threatening diagnosis for themselves or their loved ones. Suddenly, life gets a new meaning when adversity hits home. It is then and there they realize all they fought for in life fell short to preserve life and fill out the void in their hearts. Only Jesus can do that.

Humanity needs the humble shepherd–King for living life to the fullest both here on earth and into eternity. Jesus, the son of God loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you, not as a stranger in town but as your savior and friend. He wants to reside in your home, in your heart. Will He find a welcoming place for His birth in you this Christmas?

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always time to rejoice. Sing today’s carol with joy and gratitude for the opportunity to truly celebrate the reason for the season with Jesus as the King of your life.

O Come to My Heart

A NEEDY sinner at Thy feet,
With broken heart I bow
For pardon at Thy mercy seat;
O Jesus, save me now.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, come,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Strong friend of sinners, hear my cry
And set my sad heart free;
My sins demand that I should die,
But I believe in Thee.

To Thee, the sinner’s changeless friend,
My all I fully give;
The living water, Jesus, send,
O let me drink and live.

