

## **Is There Room in the I.N.N. ?**

Luke 2:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Luke 2:1-8, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic today is "Is there Room in the I.N.N. ?" You see, there was no room for Jesus to be born at the inn. This Christmas didactic sermon deals with the birth of Christ and encourages us to make sure we have room for Jesus in our lives. There was no room for Him at the inn. But is there room for him in your life? As you all know December is the time that we have set aside to reflect on the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior; Jesus the Christ.

**Background:** No one knows the exact day when Jesus was born. But December 25, the date assigned to remember the birth, was introduced to counter the pagan feast of the sun god—the popular winter solstice festival held in Rome—the birthday of the Invincible Sun. This was a significant celebration in the cult of Mithras, the Persian god of light who was often identified with the sun. Long before the birth of Christ ancient people living in the Northern Hemisphere, observing the disappearance of the sun, expressed their fears in annual superstitious rituals.

The Christian celebration was intended to be a theological corrective. The season was chosen to recognize and proclaim that Christ was born into a dark world and that he is the true source of light. He is the Logos; which is the creative, illuminating, power of God. Christians wanted to mark the birth of the Son of God, who is the Light of the World, at a time when others were celebrating the mystery of the physical light coming back into the dark sky. The observance was intended to draw people away from

superstition and myth and to help them focus on the deeper reality of “truth”.

The theological corrective and observance of the birth of Jesus did not happen immediately after his life and death. For three hundred years after the ascension of Jesus to heaven, people remembered his death and resurrection. It was not until the early part of the fourth century that Christians felt a need to honor the birth of the Savior. In keeping with Old Testament feasts and festivals, it was designated a feast day, called the Feast of the Nativity. And Nativity means birth or origin: a place of being born.

The celebration featured a special mass in honor of the remembrance of His coming. It was thus called Christ’s Mass and became known later as simply Christmas. This in itself is significant, for it was Christ who was being celebrated. Big Bethel, as I look around our world today I have to wonder. Who are they celebrating? Have people forgotten the reason for the season? Do they really know that Christ is the answer to the world today? Do they know that happiness is not what they give or what they receive because God gave the only and most perfect gift of all; he gave us his only begotten son; Jesus the Christ.

America has forgotten the real meaning of this special season. This season was not designed to put ourselves in debt. This was not designed to run up credit cards and buy things that we can’t afford. And in many cases... still be paying for Christmas gifts in March of the next year. This season was not created to shop til’ you drop. It was designed to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and to share love, hope, and encouragement with humanity.

I was shocked when I read the survey that was performed by Netdoctor.com. When people were asked the question, “Does Christmas make them depressed? More than 57 per cent replied that it often or always does.” And listen to the top reasons why Christmas make people depressed.

**Reasons** - The reasons for people disliking Christmas are varied. Top hates are:

Christmas has become too commercial. A feeling that everyone is having a better time than you; spending far too much money.

Other dislikes are: Eating too much. Baby, I got the answer to that one. Stop eating so much. Just because it is there that don’t mean you got to eat it all up. Are you with me?

Christmas parties... Many say that it makes them miserable. If people will focus more on what God has done for them besides what they can give to someone (a gift) we would not have so many depressed people in this world. If they just remember that GOD gave the greatest gift of all. I don’t care how much money a person has; we can never repay God for Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season!!!

Yes, and as we go to our text we will find the real reason for this season. Luke gives us

in detail the birthplace of Jesus Christ. As we all know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This was prophesied in the book of Micah 5:2 that the coming Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

**Micah 5:2 - " yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."**

Many have speculated why there was no room for Mary and Joseph and our soon coming King Jesus Christ. Well Caesar August made a decree that all shall be taxed. And so many made the journey to Bethlehem to pay their part of taxes owed. And in Mary's condition, the journey would be a slow one, and as they arrived, the inn would be fully occupied. *I am sure Joseph had to stop a few times to rub the feet of Mary. And by me being married and seeing my children born; understanding the various stages of pregnancy, I am sure Joseph had stop somewhere and get some pickles and ice cream. (Smile) Any of the fellows know what I'm talking about?* There was many a night where I had to get up in the middle of the night because my wife had a craving for some combination of a peculiar variety of foods. *And Lord don't let me mention the morning sickness. Can I get a witness?* So about the time they arrived to the great city of Bethlehem, all the inn's were full. And there was no room for the birth of Jesus in the inn. {Can you imagine...The Hilton, Mariott, Hampton Inn, and Even the Motel 6 was overflowing, such that there was no room available..}

*But the time came the Bible says that she should deliver. And they had to find some type of shelter. And since there was no room at the inn, Jesus had to be born in a manger.*

Verse 6. while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered -- Mary had up to this time been living at the wrong place for Messiah's birth. A little longer stay at Nazareth, and the prophecy would have failed. But lo! The prophecy had to be fulfilled. She is brought from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and just in the nick of time... Come on somebody... her time arrives, and her Babe is born.

*And I am here to tell somebody today that it may seem that you are in the wrong job. It may seem that you are not in the place where God wants you to be spiritually. You might feel that you are not in the right home that God has for you. Not in the right position in your life. But if you hold on a little while longer, just in the nick of time... God will make sure that you are in the place where he needs you to be. When it is time for you to give birth to your miracle. God will make sure that you are in the right place at the right time. God's got a miracle in you; even though it seems there is no room for your intelligence on your job when you know more than your boss knows. When you're training people that get paid more than you do. God said it's going to come a time that the miracles that are inside of you shall be birthed (and come into fruition). And when God has something inside of you it's got to be birthed out. I don't care if you are in the inn or if you are in a stall. I don't care if you are on Wallstreet or in the streets of Spring Hope, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, etc. Wherever you are, when God puts something down*

inside of you that is a miracle...<IIIIII> it's got to come out (Ps 118:23). "This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad." If you got breath in your body you ought to be Glad about it. If you got clothes on your back you should be Glad about it. If you got Jesus down in your heart you should rejoice and be glad. You might not get everything you want for this Christmas but as long as you got King Jesus you don't need nobody else. The song writer said, if he never does anything else for me; He's Already done enough. He woke me up this morning, He started me on my way. He's done enough, He clothed me in my right mind, He's already done enough. He brought me from a mighty long way, He's already done enough. He gave us Jesus of Nazareth. "Can I get a Witness" ...He has already done enough.

But the Bible says he was born in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. Wrapped up in swaddling clothing. Swaddling cloth's were strips of cloth that was wrapped around a baby so that they limbs will grow straight. I am here to tell somebody today that God got me so wrapped up and tied up in his love I can't help but to go straight. Every time I think about the love of God and how he came down 42 generations to redeem us. I have to go straight. We were bought with a price. We were bought with something you cannot find in Crabtree Valley Mall. We were bought with something you can't order via the internet on Ebay, Amazon, Walmart.com, Wish, or the Home Shopping Network. We were bought with something that money can't buy. We were bought by the blood of Jesus. Thank God for Jesus Christ today. Thank God That he was born of a virgin and born in Bethlehem.

He was born in a manger and that is why some people don't serve our God. Because they figure that if he was a King that he should have been born a temple. That he should have been born in royalty. With royal clothes on not swaddling clothes on. But it don't matter where he was born I am just glad that he came to deliver me from the pits of hell.

And God is telling us today that he was an example for us. It don't matter where you started but what matters is where you are going. You may have been born in the projects, but your end could be the White House. You may have started in poverty, but the Bible says that we serve a God that is rich in houses and land. It doesn't matter where you started baby, it matters where you will end.

And as I look around America today, I have found out that there is still no room for Jesus. If you go down to the courtroom, you will find out that they have taken the 10 commandments of the wall. There is still no room for Jesus in this day and age. When we go to the schoolhouse, you will notice they have taken prayer out of the school; we will find out that there is no room for Jesus. They have taken prayer out of the school and the children can't even say the pledge of allegiance. When you visit our local law enforcement agencies; you will find out that they have taken the cross off of their badges. There is no room for Jesus in our police system. But I want to ask somebody

today, is there room for Jesus in your life, or are you too busy running around buying gifts that you forgot the reason for the season. I want to know is there room for Jesus? In this church are we going to abide in His Word? Do His will and bless His Holy name? Is there room for Jesus in your heart today? He said, "Lo, I stand at the door and knock." If anyone will let me in, I will come in and sup with them. Is there room for Jesus at your inn? Because he was there in your beginning. There was no room for them at the I.N.N. But what I want to know is there any room for Jesus at your E.N.D. Because He is the Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end. Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Who Could Imagine a King?

Beloved, take the opportunity to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior; today. He is the gift of promise. Romans 10:9-11 teaches, <sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.