

Countdown Video - Snow Scene 1
 Worship Music Video - Gloria
 PowerPoint Template - Journey To Advent
 Video Illustration - This is Christmas
December 20, 2015



Title: No Room for Jesus

Big Idea: As we stand on the threshold of Christmas 2015, it seems as if there is little time for what Christmas was intended. If you were to look at your daily planner or calendar it is full of celebrations and parties. Parties with friends, family and others who have invited you to attend your Christmas celebrations. It is certainly important to recognize these celebrations I would suggest that we will miss the real purpose of Christmas.

There are stories that come out of the days of yesteryears. The story which are most promenade are stories concerning the origin of St. Nicolas. Around the world there are story of Santa Clause. Men, women, boys and girls, young and old alike know about him. Not only are there stories but even poems about his delivering gifts around the world. On Christmas Eve his ltenary can be tracked on the internet. The stories of the arrival of Santa have become the central focus of Christmas. But there is event which seems to have taken a back seat to Santa and that is the Birth of Jesus.

As we look at a text today there is a part of the passage that just jumps out when I read it "was no room for them in the inn". Within that statement I find there was no room for (1) "Our Lives", (2) "in the World" (3) "in Eternity".

Text Illustration: HERE'S MY ROOM

Ron Hutchcraft tells the story of Harold. Harold wanted to be in the annual Christmas play which was always a big production in his town. But Harold was not the top student in his class and seemed to have a lot of problems. The directors of the children's play did not want to hurt Harold's feelings, but they were worried about whether he could handle a part. They finally decided to give him the part of the Inn Keeper. All he had to say was, "I'm sorry, there is no room in the Inn."

Well, the night of the big play came and the church was packed. At the precise moment Mary and Joseph came and knocked on the Inn door. The whole village of Bethlehem shook as Harold tried to open the cardboard door to the Inn which was stuck. At last he got the door open, and the pitiful young couple was standing there looking all too real to Harold, but with a little coaching he blurted out the words: "I'm sorry, all the rooms are full, and there's no room for you here."

The couple turned sorrowfully away and began to walk off stage when all of a sudden the door of the Inn swung open again, and Harold ran up to the couple and said in a loud voice so that everyone could hear, "Wait a minute. Come back. You can have my

room.” It was a great addition to the play, even though it was not in the script.

The world was not interested enough to provide a room for the Savior, but you don’t have to follow the script either. You can give Him room — your room. The room of your heart. Give Him room to live in you. Jesus says to us, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). (Rodney Buchanan, Sermon Central)

Sermon Text:

Luke 2:1-7 <Christ Born of Mary> Parallel Passage (Matt 1:18-25)

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 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. NKJV

1. No Room in Our Lives (vs. 2)

Luke 2:2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. NKJV

- a.** It was a day like many other days except Joseph and Mary had to journey to Bethlehem in order register for the census that had been mandated by Caesar Augustus. The journey was difficult and hard and it was compounded by the pregnancy of Mary. She would deliver her child at just any moment. When they arrived in Bethlehem there was not a room to be found. As they searched for a room one of the inn keeper told them they were welcome to stay in the stable. Mary’s time had come and she gave birth to the “King of the Jews”. The baby Jesus was laid in a manger. In Nativity depictions of the Birth of Jesus the manger is illustrated by a small V shaped manger. But, in reality it was a trough used for feeding the animals in the stable.
- b.** It is interesting that this was a lonely place. Can you imagine that a King would be born in to the world and few took notice of His birth? Yet is it any different today. The Bible tells in that in the last days the world would live life as if it were going to be forever. Why is it we only turn to God when we are facing a crisis in life. May be that is why there are so many crises in the world today. Had the Jews been in bondage like the Jews of Egypt. When they were oppressed they cried out to God for a deliverer.

Text Illustration: FINALLY, CHRISTMAS

Senator John McCain of Arizona was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict. He was shot down and held as a prisoner of war in Hanoi for 5 ½ years, 1967-1973, spending much of it in solitary confinement. John McCain said this, “When I was being mistreated by the North Vietnamese, many times I found myself asking to live just one more minute rather than one more hour or one more day. And I know I was able to hang on longer as a prisoner of war because of the spiritual help that I received through prayer. “At Christmas, I was the room chaplain, not because of my excessive virtue, but because I knew all the prayers that went with a church service, since I had been in a boarding school and was an Episcopalian. We asked for a Bible, and the Vietnamese said they didn’t have any. Later we learned that thousands of Bibles had been sent to us. “Four days before Christmas, I was told that I could copy prayers and stories from the only Bible the Vietnamese had available...Our service consisted of a biblical passage read by me, followed by an appropriate song by the choir. I talked about the birth of Christ and the choir sang, ‘Silent Night.’ “I looked around the room and there were tears in those men’s eyes. They weren’t tears of anger or fright or sorrow or bitterness or even longing for home. They were tears of joy that, for the first time in seven years for some of them there was a celebration of Christmas together as Americans.” SOURCE: Homiletics Magazine 14:6. Contributed by Fred Mueller, The Reformed Church of Locust Valley in "Hold On!"

2. No Room in the World (vs. 3)

Luke 2:3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. NKJV

- a. The birth of the Lamb of God the Savior of the world will come and little attention is paid to it. This is true today just as it is true in the day of His birth. There was no fanfare, no announcements in the streets, no headlines in the newspapers. Few people took notice. Only the lowliest of the lowly the shepherds paid attention. Of course with two exceptions. The first exception was King Herod; he took notice because he was afraid for his position. He was aware of the prophecies concerning the birth of a King, the King of the Jews (Matt 2:2). There were also the wise men who had traveled a great distance to see this wondrous event, the birth of a King.
- b. But there were others, first is all of creation. There was a star which marked the birth of the Son of God by leading all who would follow to this amazing and wonderful event (Matt 2:2). And still another that recognized the birth of God’s Son. It was the angelic host which delivered the “Good News”. I remember at the birth of my children and the nurse coming in to inform me of their birth a wave of glorious amazement came over me. I can’t imagine how wonderful to the whole world it must have been when God sent His Son, the Savior of world was born. This angelic host brought the announcement, it was not an announcement of just the birth but an announcement of freedom to all the

world that we could be free from the penalty of sin that had plagued mankind since the fall of Adam (Gen 2:15-17).

Text Illustration: An ancient Scottish legend has this story.

A shepherd boy was tending a few sheep on the side of a mountain. One day while wandering in the wilderness, he came to a huge cave. There was a door to the cave and it was closed. And as he was looking around, he noticed a very beautiful flower. The boy knelt down and pulled out the flower in his hands. He was admiring it when suddenly there was a loud noise. He looked up and saw the doors to the cave opening up right before his eyes. There were bright lights that shine from the inside of the mountain.

With the flower in his hands, the shepherd boy rushed inside. And his eyes widened because he saw piles of sparkling gold, diamonds, precious stones and jewelry. He began to gather them in his arms. Finally, with all that his arms could carry, the boy turned and started to leave the cave. Suddenly a voice said to him, "Don't forget the best."

Thinking that perhaps he had overlooked some choice piece of treasure, the boy turned around and quickly picked up additional pieces of priceless treasure. As his arms literally overflowed with the treasures, he began to run out of the mountain cave. Again the voice said, "Don't forget the best." But the boy's arms were filled, and he hurried outside. All of a sudden, there was a loud noise. The boy looked around and saw the mountain cave closing its doors.

A third time the shepherd boy heard the voice, and this time it said, "You forgot the best. For the beautiful flower is the key to the vault of the mountain."

3. No Room in Eternity (vs. 7)

Luke 2:7 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.
NKJV

- a. Have you ever thought or even said "If I had only known"? I'm sure the inn keeper in Bethlehem said or felt that way when or if he had realized that he had turn away the mother of the Son of God. Even just considering the popularity and notoriety that his inn could have been if he had just found a room for the birth of Jesus in his inn. If it had been Elvis or some other person of worldly importance the inn keeper could let the world know that Jesus, the Son of God the King of the Jews had been born on this very spot. But, alas there was "no room" for the Savior of the world. What an opportunity lost, yet an even more important opportunity was lost in the lives of people today. For there is "no room" in the hearts and lives of people today. People are too busy for religion, yet we are not talking about religion. Religion is dead without relationship. We are talking about a

relationship with the Savior of the world. God's Word tells that Jesus came to seek and to save us from our disobedience, and the reward for our disobedience is eternal separation from God. Matthew 25:41 declares that God never knew us without Jesus Christ. Christ's love was so great that He demonstrated His love for us by dying for us. His death made the way for us to have a personal relationship with God the Father.

- b. Is there room in your life for Jesus, if there is then you will not receive the praises of men but you will receive the everlasting life in eternity with the God who created us and His Son who died for you and the Holy Spirit who resides in the heart of all who accept Him.
- c. Do you remember Herod when He realized that there was "no room" for Mary and the baby Jesus He offered to give them His room? Will you give Christ room, not just a room but your life which He will give back to you so that you can live it for Him.

Luke 12:8-9 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, Him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. NKJV