

MAKE ROOM

An Advent Reflection

No Room
Luke 2:1-7; 9:57-58
December 3, 2023

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. - Luke 2:7

I. APPOINTED MAN, APPOINTED TIME, APPOINTED PLACE

- The Messiah must be born in Bethlehem, and therefore the rulers of this world must accommodate (Prov. 21:1; Micah 5:2-5, Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:9-10).
- Joseph, being in the line of David, had to register for the census in his ancestral hometown of Bethlehem. Mary too may have been in the line of Judah (vs. 4).
- It appears that Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth after his dedication in Jerusalem. Some time later they fled to Egypt, then back to Nazareth (Luke 2:22-39; Matt. 2:1-23).
- Although Jesus appears to have spent most of his life in Nazareth, he had no permanent home after his ministry began (Luke 3:23, 9:57-58).

II. AT HOME WITH JESUS

- Jesus was rejected by men but accepted by God. When we identify with Christ, we too will know this rejection and acceptance. It is a marvelous thing (Ps. 118:22-23; Isa. 53:3, Matt. 21:42; 1 Peter 2:7-8).
- It wasn't only the inn that had no room for Jesus. Kings had no room for him, nor others of great esteem. The elite rarely make room for Jesus (Ps. 2:1-2).
- Like Jesus, we are exiles and sojourners here. Our home is with him (Heb. 11:9-10; 1 Peter 2:9-12).
- We are called to give up everything that hinders our walk with Christ (Matt. 19:27-30; Heb. 12:1-2).

KNOW: In birth and in much of his life Jesus called no place "home." Our homes are with Jesus, and until that becomes permanent, we, like our Savior, are exiles and sojourners.

DO: Make your permanent home with Jesus.

Suggested Reading:

Is Christmas Unbelievable? Four Questions Everyone Should Ask About the World's Most Famous Story by Rebecca McLaughlin (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

The Adventure of Christmas: A Journey Through Advent for the Whole Family by Ed Drew (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Prepare Him Room: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus Family Devotional by Marty Machowski (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Luke 2:1-7; 9:57-58

1. Why does Luke give us specific details about world events surrounding Jesus' birth?
2. Why is it important to know that Joseph and Mary need to be in Bethlehem for the census?
3. What are some concepts that we can take away from the reality that "There was no room for him in the inn"?
4. Jesus said during his ministry that "He had no place to lay his head." As Jesus' followers, does this have anything to say about our attachment to this world?
5. What does it mean for us to be "Sojourners and exiles" here?
6. How do we make our home with Jesus? What will that look like for you?