



Manger for Jesus, Inn for You

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).

One of the great mysteries of the Nativity is the phrase “there was no place for them in the inn.” How can this be? Surely, someone would have compassion towards an expecting mother. Wasn’t there at least one good Samaritan willing to switch places with Mary? Instead, many were inside warming themselves by the fire while the mother of our Lord was outside in the cold.

What could be the reason for this scandal? Maybe Mary and Joseph were poor and could not afford a room. Maybe the rumor mill had preceded them (her pregnancy seemed a little fishy). Maybe there simply were too many people in the little town.

Underneath the natural reasons are the spiritual ones. The Devil has always worked against God. Not only does he conspire to have the nations rage against God but he also conspires for little towns to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to God.

Even humanity has a role in this. We are always trying to replace God by our own devices: eating forbidden fruit, building a tower to the heavens, nailing the Messiah to the cross. St. Paul was right when he wrote, “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10).

There is a deeper reason for the manger, namely, God’s love. You see, it is easy to love a world that opens its doors to every stranger and welcomes them into the inn. We would all love a world like that. God, on the other hand, loves the world that rejects His Son. God loves the world filled with darkness, closed doors, and no good Samaritans. God loves sinners like you and me.

Jesus was born outside the inn because he is the Good Samaritan who brings you into the inn for healing. On the cross, Jesus pays the wage so that you can remain in the inn. The Son of Man had no place to lay his head so that you would have a place to lay your head. So rest by the fire of God’s love. Feast on the meal He provides. The manger is for Jesus; the inn is for you!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Russell Lackey