Text: Luke 2:7-14 Pastor Joffre Swinney Sr. Subject: "Is There Room for Jesus" December 22, 2024

Surely Christmas is the most celebrated holiday of the year. It generates more attention, more excitement and anticipation from all walks of life than any other holiday.

Although many of us will celebrate Christmas, yet so few of us will fail to grasp the true understanding and its true meaning.

During this time of the season many will be gear up with overwhelming anticipation just to see what type of gift they will receive decorated with pretty ribbons, bows and beautiful wrapping paper.

One thing about unwrapping Christmas gifts is that magical feeling we get anticipating what lies beneath the wrapping. Once you have unwrapped them all, you are left wishing there were more.

If the question was asked, what did you get or give last Christmas we probably would not remember, but the gift that has been given to all the world can never be forgotten.

God the Father loved us, so He gave the world a special gift by giving us His Son and He is the greatest gift of all, (John 3:16)

"He Came Gift Wrapped"

God promised the Savior's <u>virgin birth</u> immediately after mankind's first sin in the Garden of Eden according to Genesis 3:15.

Hundreds of years later, <u>Isaiah 7:14</u>: "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel

The prophet Micah foretold the birth of Christ in the small town of Bethlehem: Micah 5:2

This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus' earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, were called to Bethlehem for a census of the entire Roman territory <u>Luke 2:1–5</u>

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Jesus to be born. (Question, have you ever wondered, why there was no room for them in the inn?

I don't know about you, but I could imagine that this was hardly "the most wonderful time of the year" for Mary and Joseph" traveling 70 miles and pregnant and come to find out no room.

I believe there was <u>no room in the inn</u> so that <u>Jesus</u> could completely identify with the underprivileged, vulnerable, oppressed, rejects, outcasts and poor.

When God came in the flesh, he demanded none of the world's comforts, luxuries or protections. He knew there would be homeless people trying to stay warm at night.

Those who would look up at the star that hovers over this little town of Bethlehem and say in their heart, "God, you have no idea what I'm going through!"

To this, Jesus could honestly say, "Actually, I know exactly what you're going through."

**<u>2 Corinthians 8:9</u>** says this: "Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

Also, the fact there was <u>no room at the inn</u> was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy found in <u>Isaiah 53</u>, which says that

the Messiah would be "despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering."

The words <u>'no room for you'</u> followed Jesus throughout his entire life ... There was just <u>no room</u> for him anywhere. <u>Matthew 8:20</u> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

"Is there Room for Jesus"

With all the festivities and all the busy-ness, going on around us has Jesus become just an afterthought, in the lives of many instead of taking His place of honor at this time of the year.

"Is there Room for Jesus"

The amazing and beautiful thing about this is: Even though, time and time again, humanity told the Son of God we just don't have no room for you, but this same child came to make room for us.

Amazingly just as Jesus earthly parents knocked on the innkeeper's door, Jesus continues to knock doorway of your heart.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold! 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."

Jesus continues to tell humanity, "I have more than enough room for you." On the night before Jesus was crucified, he told his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)

"Is there Room for Jesus"

This humble birth conveys an amazing message to creation: Jesus was born in meekness, as one of us. He is approachable, accessible, and available.

The King of Kings came humbly, and His first (bed was a manger).

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8

Some refrain from celebrating Christmas because they see a link between the <u>traditions</u> surrounding the holiday and similar practices in ancient pagan rituals.

It is true that <u>bells</u>, <u>candles</u>, <u>holly</u>, and <u>yuletide decorations</u> are mentioned in the history of pagan worship, and for some Christians that is enough to keep them away from celebrating Christmas.

They focus on modern tradition's association with the <u>true meaning</u> of Christmas—the birth of the <u>Savior</u> of the world. <u>Bells</u> are played to ring out the joyous news, <u>candles</u> are lit to remind us that Christ is the Light of the world.

A star is placed on the top of Christmas a tree is there to remind us of the Star of Bethlehem, and gifts are exchanged to remind us of the gifts of the magi to Jesus, the greatest gift of God to mankind.

In the end, while there is no biblical mandate to celebrate Christmas, Christians can and do the birth of the observe Savior.