

## Monday Morning Rewind – December 15, 2008

Good morning! I know it's Monday, but have you made room for Jesus yet?

On Sabbath we learned that, contrary to the very familiar storyline of Mary and Joseph being turned away by a grumpy innkeeper the night of Jesus' birth, the couple most likely stayed with relatives in a typical two-room peasant house. The manger was either dug out of the floor at the end of the main living room where the family ate, cooked, and slept, or it was on the lower level where the family animals were bedded down for the night.

Why was Jesus placed in the manger? Luke 2:7 says, "Because there was no room for them in the inn." The "inn" spoken of here is not a commercial motel, but rather a "place to stay" or "guest room." Jesus was laid in the manger because the "guest room" already was occupied.

Whether you hold to the traditional view of the stand-alone manger in a Western-type barn, or the Middle Eastern view of the manger dug out of the floor of a two-room house, the point is that *there was no room for Jesus!* Whoever occupied the guest room (and it was most likely a relative) did not give up their place for the Messiah. Someone was inconvenienced by Jesus' arrival and today people are still inconvenienced by Him.

There seems to be room for every other holiday—Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanza, -- everything but Christmas. Why? Because the other celebrations don't require you to give up your place as king. To truly celebrate Christmas, you must make room in your heart for Christ to be born there. Most folk are like Herod and find it easier to try to eliminate Jesus rather than to bow to Him.

Think of all the things that crowd Christ right out of Christmas. We Christians get offended when it seems like the secular culture is waging war on the holiday. Maybe if we Christians had made more room for Jesus in our own hearts and lives, and weren't so preoccupied with the same things the secular culture was preoccupied with, it wouldn't be so easy to ignore the Savior.

So how do we make room for Jesus this Christmas?

- 1. De-clutter.** Get rid of stuff you don't need. What are you holding onto that is just taking up precious space and time in your life?
- 2. Reorganize.** Put your spiritual house in order. Find your Bible. Uncover your prayer closet. Find your work clothes and serve somebody.
- 3. Move out so Jesus can move in.** Move out of your own spotlight, to make room for the Light of the World. Move out of your comfort zone, to make room for the Comforter. Move off the throne of your heart so the King of glory can come in.

Will making room for Jesus be inconvenient? Yes, it will be at times. But before you complain too loudly, rewind to Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 26:36-45; Matt. 27:27-31, and consider how Jesus inconvenienced Himself to make room for you.

Then rewind to Heb. 4:16; Micah 7:19; Psalm 139:18; Psalm 56:8, and John 14:1-3 to see where and how Jesus makes room for you.

Jesus made room for me. This Christmas, all He wants is for me to make a little room for Him. I'm going to do it, how about you? –Pastor Randy

p.s. This Sabbath, December 20, is going to be a high day for our church family. Our worship service will feature our children performing the music of Christmas, etc. This is our annual family Christmas program that we look forward to all year. This is also potluck Sabbath, and, in addition to bringing something yummy for dinner, we're asking everyone to bring extra snacks and goodies for another time of fellowship immediately *after* our big Christmas program later that evening.

The Nampa Church Choir and Trevor Loucks are coming to provide outstanding music, and the original drama, "What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?" will play for the first time at 4:00 p.m. We've invited the public and we're praying for a full house. Please make plans to be there and help support this community outreach event. And don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item with you to help restock our community food pantry. See you Sabbath and dress warm!

Randy M.

The need is GREAT. The key is PRAYER. The time is NOW!

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2 Chron. 7:14