

tell me The Story Again

Part 3: The Inn

December 15 & 16, 2018

Pastor Grant Fishbook

The Story of Three Rooms

The Lower Room

Kataluma — Inn/Guest House/Lower Room: A room of humility

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. – Luke 2:1-7 (NIV 1984)

The Upper Room

Kataluma: A room of sacrifice

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him.

¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, “The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” – Mark 14:13-15

In the Upper Room:

Jesus washes his disciples’ feet (the gift of service)

Jesus predicts betrayal and denial (the gift of grace)

Jesus prays for unity within his family of faith (the gift of hope)

Jesus shares Communion with his friends (the gift of sacrifice)

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. ²⁵ “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” – Mark 14:22-25

The Throne Room

A room of honor

Revelation 6:5-14

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Next Steps

Give the gift of serving at one of our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 23 or Monday, December 24. Sign up today using the insert in today’s program. We’ll contact you to follow up and wrap up all the details.

Invite friends and family. Christmas Eve invitations are available in the Commons today. We encourage you to pick one up for each person God has laid on your heart to invite, then offer that invitation in person.

Small Group Questions

- 1) When did you hear the Christmas story for the first time?
- 2) Read Luke 2 out loud. What’s your favorite part of the Christmas story?
- 3) Jesus is a humble king who came in humility to the lower room. Why does that matter?
- 4) In the Upper Room, Jesus does four notable things (see above). Which of those is the most profound for you? If you were there, would you have struggled with any of the four?
- 5) Where are you making space for Jesus this Christmas?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?