

NO ROOM...

Luke 2:4-7 - And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. **5** He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was No room for Him in the Inn. (Pause... what? How?)

- the first tactic the enemy used to try to keep Jesus out was FULLNESS, no room
- no room - keep Him out!

The enemy was well aware that it had been prophesied

Isaiah 7:14 -Therefore the Lord Himself will give a sign Behold, a virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His Name Emmanuel. (which means God **with** us)

- Your *enemy knows the power of GOD WITH US - Immanuel*
- *His tactics have not changed... 2000 years later he is still doing everything possible to keep you FULL so you can't be WITH Immanuel*

Our schedules full, calendars full, closets full, bellies full, spirits full, life is just full ... leaving us with the same response ... NO ROOM

What are you full of today? :)

RUSH - And its hard for me to even keep in school - "Mommy, i just wanna be with you today"

At night - after the 5 bed time stories/ songs/water / ... screaming for me - i ask "what do you want?" "I just want you"

From the beginning of time GODS desire has been to be WITH us & satans desire was to separate us!

Genesis - God walks & talks w/ Adam & Eve until SIN creates distance

Is 59:2 - But your iniquities have separated you form your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear

YET still bc of GODS crazy love and desire to BE WITH US , He created a way...

Ex & Lev - He pitches a tent right in the middle of the camps of Israel w/sin disposal system (tabernacle -sacrifice) so HE could be with them -

****THERES still 1 problem that creates a VISITATION when GOD Desires a HABITATION - SIN**

God's plan - to destroy the bondage and separation of SIN once and for all so that HE could DWELL and be IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

God sends His Son, Jesus (God in flesh) to walk among us & live and die & defeat sin & death so that TODAY He can truly DWELL not visit & be Immanuel
John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth

VRBO - When our family goes to stay somewhere and looking for room- our family uses something called VRBO or Air BNB bc we have MORE room - MORE amenities - MORE options - SPACE!!! We don't have everyone piled and crowded up in one tiny space, we want ROOM! Are you giving God a hostile /hotel (one space of many)to dwell in , or the whole house?

VRBO has something called filters/musts - where you list your requirements for your STAY ... 3 bdr/ 2 bath / ocean view. Whats on your list of must haves??
—>Today I want to look at the place God was looking for His Son to stay

GODS VRBO FILTERS

Location - *If you were choosing the location to announce the birth of the much awaited Messiah after centuries of silence and waiting, WHAT LOCATION WOULD YOU CHOOSE?*

Luke 2:8-12 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

He chooses shepherds - the lowly outcast of their day, couldn't do business, couldn't testify in court, seen as least in society, their only job was to spend their lives caring for and raising sheep, they would raise the sheep used for the sacrifice in the temple, yet they would never be allowed in the temple to offer it.

God has a thing for Shepherds - DAVID

Shepherds seem to be linked to praise - Luke 2:20 “The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen.

View - God sent an invitation to another group of noble kings/wisemen who had a different VIEW than everyone else - their produced an expectation in them
“Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 MSG -After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked

around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

...Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh

Noble men/3 kings used to people seeking them, were overcome with Their view produced an expectation in them - they were seekers - **pursuing / searching & preparing gifts bc they were expecting to find Him!!!! (Gifts showed their faith) Bowing showed their humility**

Jer 29:13 - When you come looking for Me, you’ll find me”

Price - How much am I willing to pay? God asks who is willing to pay the price to Host my Son? A priest, a king, prophet? He found someone, not flashy, just an average carpenter, godly, from a lineage of David (shepherd)

Joseph - getting ready to step into his dreams of a family and wife...had plans
Matthew 1:20-22&24 - **While he was trying to figure a way out**, he had a dream. God’s angel spoke in the dream: “Joseph, son of David, **don’t hesitate** to get married. Mary’s pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God’s Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—‘God saves’—because he will save his people from their sins... **24** Then Joseph woke up. He did **exactly** what God’s angel commanded in the dream

We live in a society today that says if it’s inconvenient, it can’t be God - if it interrupts MY plans It must not be God! If it causes me stress or heartache or pain, IM OUT! We lead CHEAP lives

Room - Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. **Mary made room by surrendering her entire life**

- young, virgin, girl, I’m sure she was afraid of what people would say...

- **Jesus wants ROOM, he doesn’t want to be crowded** - lost it at crowded temple
NOW We are the temple...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

BIG IDEA - Immanuel, GOD WITH US. Needs ROOM to be with you!

GIVE ME ROOM in your heart, mind, marriage, career!

TO GO BOX:

5 yrs ago - We renovated house bc we wanted open spaces ... More ROOM
We had to - tear out Walls - add Beams for structural support?

What do you need to do today to make room for Him?

Immanuel - GOD IS WITH YOU TODAY!!! WHO needs to know He's with you today?