



November 30, 2025

## A SHUNAMMITE CHRISTMAS

“Making Room”

2 Kings 4:8-10; Luke 2:1-7



Old Testament pictures of Jesus  
Especially in the ministry of Elisha  
The story of the Shunammite woman and her son

A room for the messenger of God: 2 Kings 4:8-10

Making Room for Jesus

No room at the inn: Luke 2:1-7

The crowded theory

Reflection: *not either/or: the room of simultaneity: 1Thess 5:17*

The scandal theory

Reflection: *give Him a roomy room: John 12:32*

The manger theory

Reflection: *small room over a cheap room: John 6:9*

The Shunammite's Model:

*Whenever, visible, roof real estate*

## NOTES:

Old Testament pictures of Jesus abound

The ministry of Elisha: 2 Kings

### **Jesus foreshadows in the Elisha story:**

Parts the Jordan and walks across: 2 K2:14

Multiplication of oil (like bread): 2 Ki 4:1-7

Raises a dead son: 2 Ki 4:32-37

Purifies the deadly stew (unclean to clean): 2 Ki 4:38-41

Multiplies bread for crowd: 2 Ki 4:42-44

Heals Namaan of leprosy (rich young ruler): 2 Ki 5:1-14

Borrowed ax head float?: 2 Ki 6:1-7

Made his enemies blind 2 Ki 6:18

Set a feast before his enemies: 2 Ki 6:20-23

Elisha wept 2 Ki 8:11

Elisha's bones in his grave revive a dead man: 2 Ki 13:20-21

The story of the Shunammite woman and her son: 2 Ki 4:8-10

Prefigurations of Mary and Jesus

Part One: A room for the messenger of God

Began with practice of feeding Elisha

Friendship developed

She initiated the idea

She used her wealth

Set apart, at his discretion

On the roof

Whenever he comes

Elisha was touched and appreciated it

Making Room for Jesus

Is a common Advent theme

Have you let him in at all?

If so, what kind of room does he have?

Big or small? His own space, or a corner of yours?

### **No room at the inn: Luke 2:1-7**

Possible reasons for no room at the inn

This was Joseph's hometown, sure to have some relatives there

### **The crowded theory**

Census ballooned numbers

Rented out all the rooms before they got there

First come, first serve

### **Reflecting on the parallel**

Competing for space in our hearts

Our values, commitments, priorities

The difficulty of discerning this

How we spend our money? (rent trumps tithe)

How we spend our time? (work and TV trump quiet time)

How we make decisions? (do we consult? But often silence)

What do we think about? (about me more than Jesus)

Model here: myself is filter through which all naturally flows

Jesus is becoming the filter with each most things pass

Pray without ceasing:

**Simultaneity: Jesus with me in everything**

### **The scandal theory**

Mary was pregnant before marriage

Avoiding scandalous association

Punishing by exclusion

### **Reflecting on the parallel**

Do we wish to avoid scandalous association with Jesus?

Jesus is described as a stumbling block: (scandalon) by Paul

quoting Isaiah in Romans 9:33 and 1 Cor 1:23

Jesus was a scandal:

Hanging out with the marginalized  
Dying on a Roman cross as a criminal  
Getting to the heart of sabbath

What scandalous association might we be trying to avoid?

Often the scandals we fear coming from Jesus aren't really true about Him at all.

Often we recoil from wrong portrayals/understandings of Jesus, portrayed either by Christians or not

Christians. We can't manage Jesus, and we can't manage the complexity of what others think. Rather, the challenge is to **let Jesus have His own room**, to show up as He wants, whenever He wants, let Him be Himself on His terms, and how do we do that: **when we see enough of Jesus**, beyond all the characterizations, to dare to give him room in our hearts, **then we give Him room in His room**

Don't avoid Jesus for fear of a possible scandal in the eyes of others, when that scandal might not at all be true. Avoid Him because you fear Him seeming too conservative? See how liberal He is. Or avoid Him because He is too liberal? See how conservative His is! Just when you have Him locked in a scandalous box, He will break out again.

Ignore the pressure of what other people think. Beware of even what you think. Let Jesus define Himself! And the only way to get there is to give Him space to be! Just like you can't get to know someone without spending a lot of time with them. You know how you thought a person was one way until you went on a trip and discovered they were entirely different?

The manger theory

An act of **convenience/left-over?**/An act of comforting his

conscience?

**Or a true act of giving what he could?**

Reflecting on the parallel

Giving to Jesus our leftovers

Giving to Jesus all we can give him even if small

**If the former, second-best, Jesus will wait to unpack:** Luke 9:61-62

If the latter, Jesus will take it and make it a place of

**treasure-exchange.** He can use small. Doesn't use cheap.

Aspiring to be like the Shunammite

Give him a room on the roof of our lives (above us) and where He can do what He wants