

Make Room in the Inn (Heart)  
December 17, 2017

I Advent Wreath

II **SLIDE** Jesus' message

A) Jesus' Toy Box

- 1) I told Steph to take down the tables but leave the chairs
- 2) We would put the chairs back as we entered
- 3) It was at that time that the Lord said to me, "Make room in the inn!"
- 4) I immediately knew that Jesus meant, "Make room in your heart."
- 5) I believe this is the word for us for 2018
- 6) And it stemmed from being in the midst of Jesus' Toy Box

B) Pictures: Jesus' Toy Box

III **SLIDE** Last Week

A) Get ready

- 1) This is going to be a year of shaking and shifting
- 2) Going to be a year of opportunity
- 3) **Isaiah 40:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- 4) God is speaking about Jerusalem and about His people
- 5) He is also speaking to us about our people
- 6) How do we comfort people in a world going nuts?
- 7) Comfort
  - a) To be sorry for others (compassion)
  - b) Means to console or comfort
  - c) Synonymous with showing kindness to someone
- 8) We comfort others by showing them the kindness we have received from Jesus when we did not deserve His kindness

## IV Room in the Inn

A) **SLIDE** Luke 2:4-7 (NIV) <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> 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.

B) **SLIDE** Focus is on the word "inn"

1) Definition of inn

a) Place where animals and burdens were loosened

b) Place where all were received;

c) In essence, it was a guest room

2) This is important: we don't run inns, but we all have a guest room

3) **Mark 14:14 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] <sup>14</sup> 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?'

4) **SLIDE** The guest room was a large room that could be filled with many people and/or things

5) It is very likely that since Joseph belonged to the house of David, he was looking to stay in a home

6) But there was no room in the guest room for Mary and Joseph

C) **SLIDE** Our "Guest Rooms" are our hearts

1) **Matthew 12:34-35 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

2) **Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)** <sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

- 3) **SLIDE 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
  - 4) So, if our hearts are our guest rooms, then we decide whom or what is welcome
  - 5) We can fill our hearts with family, friends, colleagues, work, activities, responsibilities, sports, hobbies, entertainment, etc.
  - 6) **SLIDE** None of these are bad.
  - 7) As a matter of fact, I have welcomed all of these into my guest room.
  - 8) However, we can also fill our rooms with anger, resentment, unforgiveness, pride, self-righteousness, jealousy,
  - 9) The question is this: Have we left room for Jesus in our guest rooms?
  - 10) Or, in other words, "Have we left room to serve Jesus by serving others?"
- D) **SLIDE** Inconvenient vs. Inconvenience
- 1) Definitions
    - a) Inconvenient: Something that causes trouble, difficulties, or discomfort
    - b) Inconvenience: Something that is trouble or uncomfortable
  - 2) Something can be inconvenient without being an inconvenience
  - 3) Because we are to be living sacrifices, the Lord will often ask us to do things that are inconvenient; thus, the sacrifice
  - 4) However, no service should ever become an inconvenience or a burden or something that causes discomfort
  - 5) Night in Bethlehem
    - a) Lot of work
    - b) It required a great deal of sacrifice

- c) Several people, who attended for the first time, commented on how much they enjoyed it and how blessed they were
- d) Everyone who was involved (remember Lee) loved to be a part
- e) But, this past Thursday, Johnny Joe called to say we had to finish cleaning up the fair barn by this weekend
- f) I had plans so I saw this as being inconvenient
- g) However, Casey, Candi, and Caden saw it as an opportunity
- 6) Jesus' Toy Box
  - a) Again, it required sacrifice
  - b) But every sacrifice was met with an amazing outpouring of God's grace, blessing, and joy
  - c) We had several students from school who do not attend Cornerstone help this year
  - d) Several times, they told me, "This is great!" and "This is so much fun!"
  - e) Lilliana stayed until the end with Mergie, wrapping gifts and helping in any way she could
  - f) The result: 330 children will receive gifts this Christmas
- 7) Inconvenient? Maybe. An inconvenience? Never
  - a) Toys in the sanctuary
  - b) Little mess to clean up
  - c) Boxes in my office
  - d) Trailer that needs to be unloaded
  - e) Today after church if you can
  - f) Hey, having guests stay always leaves a mess to clean up
  - g) But, it is worth it!
- E) Spiritual energy drink
  - 1) People take energy drinks to get through the day
  - 2) Serving others is our spiritual energy drink
  - 3) Serving can be inconvenient, but it is never an inconvenience
  - 4) Making room in our hearts mean we need to make room for Jesus
  - 5) When we make room for Jesus, we make room to serve
  - 6) When we make room to serve, we make room for blessings

F) **SLIDE** I believe this is the year for us to make room in our guest rooms

- 1) **SLIDE** This year will be a year of challenges and blessings
- 2) **SLIDE** This year will be a year of shaking and building
- 3) **SLIDE** This year will be a year of opportunities and blessings
  - a) Jesus' Toy Box year round
  - b) More fund raisers
  - c) Create an Easter Show
  - d) Continue Community Egg Hunt
  - e) Not service projects; service opportunities
- 4) **SLIDE** Will there be room in your guest room?