

“No Room for Jesus?”—Luke 2:7

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “No Room for Jesus?”, is Luke 2:7 → *And she brought forth firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.* (KJV) This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

No room for Jesus? This questions has plagued many a Christian mind over the past twenty plus years when hearing about the removal of any “Christian” themes from Christmas plays in public schools; the removal of nativity scenes from public places; Christmas “carols” being replaced by secular “Christmas songs” in many stores; the insistence of greeting people with “Happy Holidays” in an effort to intentionally avoid using the word “Christmas.” Why? Because there just isn’t room for Jesus in a world controlled by sin and the devil!

This concept of no room for Jesus is quite the contrast to the lack of room for Jesus which His parents faced at His birth. When Joseph and Mary tried to find a place to stay in Bethlehem as they were taking part in the census, they discovered that *there was no room for them in the inn.* Thus, Jesus was

delivered someplace else which provided a manger—a feeding trough for animals—as His bed.

Actually, the words *no room* well characterize Jesus' life while on this earth. Aside from *no room . . . in the inn* resulting in His being born in unsanitary conditions, there was *no room* in Herod's kingdom for Jesus. Matthew 2:16 says *Herod . . . became furious at the news of Jesus' birth and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under*. Since there was no room for Jesus He was hunted down to be killed.

During His earthly ministry there was *no room* in the world's comforts for Jesus so He had no place to live. In Matthew 8:20 Jesus said that in contrast to the animals and birds, He had *nowhere to lay His head*. There was *no room* in the religious traditions established by the Pharisees, so He was rejected by them at every turn. According to Matthew 26:3-4, there was *no room* in the plans of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. *The chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him*. He was executed by them because there was *no room* for Him.

The “movement” to remove Christ's presence in the lives of people on all levels is nothing new. It characterized His whole earthly life! Most people in

Jesus' day spent more time rejecting, testing, accusing and killing Him than they did listening to, learning from and placing their faith in Him. In fact, it appears the only place on earth where there was room for Jesus was on the cross of Calvary! It's not the kind of pretty Christmas message that is so poetically painted for us in the traditions, songs and decorations connected with the celebration of Christ's birth.

Jesus is still calling all people to believe in Him. Jesus still desires room in your heart and life today. Christ wants to *dwell in your hearts through faith*. (cf. Ephesians 3:17) He says in Revelation 3:20 → *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me*. He wants an intimate fellowship with you in the complete forgiveness of your sins!

However, too many times the response is still the same—*no room*. The words *no room* could also characterize the reaction of many people today when they consider the eternal Life which He in His “no room life” made possible for them. For instance, people claim *no room* for Jesus because they've got too much work to do. There's *no room* for Jesus while they're enjoying their hobbies, recreational activities and other luxuries of life. There's *no room* for Jesus especially when my own interests and activities become an excuse for keeping me away from His forgiveness of sin which He holds out

to me on a regular basis in worship with the gathered believers in this place.

This *no room* reaction to Jesus' call to repentance and faith is dangerous. It leads people to reject His forgiveness and salvation which leads to hell. People fail to allow His Word to give daily direction to their thoughts and conversations. The Lord Jesus is not even considered in their daily plans as He continues to provide for them by His grace, despite their refusal to acknowledge Him. Psalm 10:4 describes a heart where there is *no room* for Jesus: *In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."* It would be very sad indeed if a person discovered in eternity that God had *no room* for him in heaven because he failed to repent of his sins and trust in Jesus for salvation.

In light of such struggles in your sinful heart to make room for Jesus, it is actually a good thing that the only place on earth where there was room for Jesus was on the cross of Calvary! In fact, the celebration of Jesus' birth is a celebration that He was born to die. Since you could not make room for fellowship with God **He did it for you** by taking the punishment which you deserve for your sin upon Himself **so you would be forgiven!** It for such sinful rejection that God took on human form as a baby in Bethlehem—to make eternal salvation available for us *no room* people! From that cross Jesus looked at those who found room for Him on the cross and said in Luke 23:34

→ *Father, forgive them.* There is room in Jesus' heart and salvation for all sinners!

Our Christmas hymns are filled with prayer after prayer, asking Jesus to take up permanent residence in our hearts in humble repentance and faith in Him. Turn to page 361 in your hymnal. Let's read together the prayer expressed in verse four.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

(“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” LSB 361:4)

Turn to page 364 in your hymnal. Let's read together the prayer expressed in verses two and three. It starts in the third phrase of verse two.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,

And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay

Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

(“Away in a Manger,” LSB 364:3-4)

Turn to page 390 in your hymnal. Let's read together the prayer expressed in verse four.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.

Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

(“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice,” LSB 390:4)

Jesus has made **room for you!** He has made **room for you** to come in repentance and faith regularly with the gathered believers here in worship to receive the forgiveness of your sins through His Gospel, His Sacraments and Absolution! He makes **room for you** daily as He graciously provides for you, both spiritually and physically! He has made **room for you** in heaven! He says in John 14:2-3 → *In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place **for you**? And if I go and prepare a place **for you**, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.*

As God approaches the door of your heart and life may He see this sign hanging on it: **“Occupied by the Son of God!” THERE’S ALWAYS ROOM FOR JESUS BECAUSE HE ALWAYS MAKES ROOM FOR YOU!!** Amen.