



Come & See What God Has Done

The Innkeeper

Dec. 22

The Innkeeper is an element of the Nativity we rarely consider. We infer there was an innkeeper because of what we read in the last verse of Luke 2:1-7, In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Someone had to be running the inn where Joseph and Mary first tried to find a place to sleep. And we will call that person the Innkeeper. Today, we might call that person the Hotel manager or even the registration clerk.

We can sympathize with Joseph and Mary if we have ever tried to find a room at a hotel when we are on a long trip. To be told there are no vacancies is not a pleasant experience. Joseph and Mary's situation would be like us being told there is no room available, but you are welcome to sleep in your car in our parking garage.





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But imagine what the Innkeeper was to see following the birth of the Christ Child. Shepherds roll into town looking for Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus. Then the Wisemen and their caravan show up. The Wisemen fall down and worship a baby in the manger that he told Joseph and Mary they could stay in. I am left wondering what the Innkeeper must have seen, let alone what he must have felt emotionally. Do you think he might have felt remorse or even guilt? Maybe some regret the decision to send them to the stable. I wonder. In hindsight, would the Innkeeper have acted differently? We will never know.

You and I have a lesson to learn from the Innkeeper. That lesson is, how much room in our hearts do we leave for Jesus? Do we give Him full residency, part-time residency, or no residency? Do we live as fully follow the Savior, or are we lukewarm in our acceptance of a need for a Savior? These are questions to honestly ask ourselves periodically. It's easy to slip into the "I only need Jesus when things get tough" mode of faith. Our world needs to see people whose lives are continually changed by Jesus. How we live and act is seen every day by others. And if we are in the world's lifestyle Monday through Saturday, we give those around us a poor example of faith. But, when we show, through our lives, how much the Lord has done and changed us, we are the kind of people others need to see. Are we innkeepers with hearts too full for Jesus, or are we innkeepers who have made room for Jesus our priority?

Leaning on Jesus
Forest Holmes