**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 17 – December 21, 2025**

“I Don’t Have Room.”

**Key Verse(s):** Luke 2:6-7 “And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

A logo of a book

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Summary of the Biblical Event**

Although Mary was pregnant and ready to give birth, she and her husband Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. This was by necessity because of a tax that had been decreed by the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus. When they arrived in Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. While the Bible does not tell us many details of their efforts to find lodging, we simply know that there was no room for them in the inn. Most Bible students agree that Joseph and Mary were likely housed in the lower part of a home, an attached shelter, or even a cave, all places where animals were often kept. We would consider this a stable today. The Bible does tell us that when the Lord Jesus was born, they placed Him in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough or a box reserved for livestock. The precious Son of God was born in the lowliest of settings. While we know that this was all part of God’s plan, the unwillingness of the innkeeper to give Joseph and Mary a room to stay in paints a picture that we will be looking at this morning. The innkeeper used the excuse that had didn’t have any room. Since that time, many others have used the same excuse when it comes to letting Jesus dwell in our homes and in our hearts.



**Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He was sadly blind to Who he had with him there.
* He could have inconvenienced himself by giving his own room.
* There is great gain in simply having God’s presence with us.
* Minimal effort is insufficient for an always working God.
* Malice is not required to hurt someone. Inaction can do it.
* The innkeeper saw no reason to give Christ special preference.
* The innkeeper did not want to inconvenience others for Christ.
* The innkeeper gained nothing (in his mind) from housing them.
* The innkeeper believed he was justified by finding something.
* The innkeeper wasn’t trying to hurt them. He just couldn’t help.

**1. It results in a missed opportunity for fellowship with our Lord.**

**Effects of the Excuse**

**Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”

**2. It validates as necessary the many things in our lives that are likely unnecessary.**

**Luke 10:41–42** “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

**3. It reduces Christ to the status of a guest instead of the Lord and Master of your life.**

**Luke 6:46** - “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

**4. It will inevitably end in great regret when what was missed is realized.**

**Luke 12:20–21** “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:33 - “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* What currently occupies the space in my life and heart that should belong to the Lord?
* How far inside or outside the inn is the Lord currently in my life?

**Commitment:**

* I will intentionally remove at least one thing from my life to make more room for Christ.
* I will treat the Lord as King and not as guest.

Do you think that the innkeeper heard about the shepherds’ visit to Jesus?

If so, could he have offered them a room after the news reached him?

The story reminds us of this important truth about ordinary situations…?

On the surface, we understand the need for fairness in giving rooms, but what application can we make on this?

Technically, the man rejected Joseph & Mary, not Christ directly. Significance?