



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK THREE: PURPOSE

No Room

“...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” - Luke 2:7

The song “Joy To The World” is sung full-voiced all over the planet this time of year. In the song, there is a lyric that is sung on auto-pilot, and then tucked away until next December: “Let every heart prepare him room...”. We sing this, but do we internalize it? We see the challenge of staying Jesus-focused during the holiday season, with all the parties, shopping, decorating, all the stress this season tends to bring. So, preparing room for Jesus is especially difficult on a holiday that was literally created for him, but equally difficult the rest of the year. Why do we find it so difficult to not only carve out room for Jesus, but make him the focal point of our lives? Why does he so often become an afterthought or add-on?

In the Christmas narrative, Mary and Joseph are forced to bring Jesus into the world in a smelly barn, because there was no room anywhere else. The King of all kings was not born in a palace, an upscale hospital, or even the privacy of his parent’s home. No, the Savior was born in a dark place, an ill-equipped place, an unsanitary place, an undesirable place. All of the normal places were too full for Jesus. Of course, if they knew the one who was being birthed could free them from slavery, people would’ve moved heaven and earth to make his entrance one of comfort and splendor. Jesus came to bring freedom, but the world was too full of managing their slavery to notice.

It is the same today. We don’t understand who Jesus really is, don’t see the benefit of making room for him our lives, or things would be different. We are slaves to addictions, slaves to success, slaves to finances, slaves to reputation, etc. We are full of symptoms, and full of man-made solutions to our problems. But there is no room for Jesus, the only one who can change our reality.

Prayer

My prayer for you today is that you make room for Jesus today. There is the urgent and the important, and Jesus is the answer to both. Make him the center of your Christmas universe.

“Let every heart prepare him room.”