

# Sermon. 3 people who missed Christmas

## Inn Keeper

Luke 2:1-7

Mary did this by herself..no midwives. Just Joseph. Nothing regal or special.

Loneliness. Can you relate? These are just a couple of scared teenagers, not royalty or super rich. The word for Inn was not that. A cave or lean to. Animals.

But they were turned away by the Innkeeper. **BUSY.**

Us? Busy and buying stuff.

Innkeeper did not know.

## Herod

Matthew 2:1-3.

The King of the Jews? **FEAR**

**Herod was troubled as well as all Jerusalem.** Herod was evil. Killed his family members to keep his position. 10 wives and 12 children.

Vs 8 wise men to go and search diligently(cooked up plan)... Vs 16. Wise men did not go back to him so he had all the kids in Bethlehem killed under 2.

No Herods left? All over the world this stuff goes on, but what about us? Why would this baby freak out Herod or maybe even us? **If this stuff is true, then we are in big trouble.** Our place as king of the castle or ruler of our destiny will be threatened. **If true** then there is a God who is in charge and will judge my life. **If true** then there is a heaven and hell and I just might not be good enough to go to heaven? Fear and hate. You may hate God who rules over you and will judge you when you die. You might not kill any babies but you can ignore and kill any chance in your mind that this baby is God in flesh and has come to die for my sins. Besides, you may lie to yourself and think you are not that bad after all. Everyone considers themselves to be good. RIGHT?

Bible is clear that all who do not give thanks to God or even acknowledge Him hate Him(Romans 1). In our natural state we are alienated from God and hostile(Colossians 1). Funny how many people say God does not exist, but are full of hate for Him? Easter bunny or snowman is no problem , but the mention of God freaks them out? Scared to even say Merry Christmas? Now Happy Holidays or some other made up holiday?

Bottom line is that we like to be our own boss. King of the castle. Lord of the manor. In fact the Bible says we know God exists but suppress the truth because of sin. We want to do what we want to do. Even if we know it is wrong. If God does not exist, then I can get away with it.

### **Religious.**

Matt 2:3-6. Who is this Messiah the Jews were looking for?

- Destiny of Israel to save their people.
- The hope of someone to crush Satans head promised in the Garden.
- The faith of Abraham to believe in a deliverer to come. The one to be the final perfect sacrifice as told in Isaiah that would “bore our griefs and would be wounded for our transgressions...the Lord laying upon Him the iniquity of us all”.
- Propesied in Micah 5:2”You O Bethlehem...from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel”.

Wise men looked and religious leaders confirmed it. John the Baptist confirmed this that the Messiah was coming.

Yet they did not walk the 10 miles down the road to see the Messiah born.

Why? **PRIDE.** They did not need a Messiah. Self righteous. They had all the rules and religion they needed. They were even the best of the best! They tithed, they went to church, they did all the religious stuff.

**They were GOOD.** Everyone is religious BTW. We all worship God or ourselves and His creation. Worshipping your religion, yourself or anything else other than Jesus alone will never make you right with God. Jesus said He was the only way the only truth the only life. No one can get to the Father anyway other than Him alone.

You cannot save yourself by trying to be good. Works of righteousness to save yourself are what the Bible says are all dirty rags. Only way is to give up on your **PRIDE** and understand you are deservedly under the just wrath of God and need this Messiah to be saved.

Denial is not just a river in Egypt, it is something that will not save you when you die. Everything will be laid bare.... We die once then judgment.

Luke 2:8-20. **Shepherds**. God did not choose the **prideful** people in Jerusalem to announce the birth of His Son. He spoke to those who had nothing. Material blessings can sometimes be a curse. You may depend on religious activities or even your stuff to satisfy, but it never will. You may think you don't need God. The people of Jerusalem or the religious people did not. Why? It is still about them.

God has chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom that He has promised. Possessions and their religion was good enough. Jesus lamented that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person to go to heaven. Witnessing to wealthy people on the streets....they don't need God. Witnessing to religious people who trust in their religion instead of Christ. No way they are going to give up control of their lives and give it to God. God is not a get out of hell card, or a cosmic Santa, or someone to keep in your back pocket when needed. He is LORD.

Only way to be saved is to **confess He is Lord**, and believe He was raised from the dead.

### **So why does Jesus cause so much anxiety?**

Because He claims to be God and we are not. Our lives of sin must be dealt with on His terms. God is perfectly holy and just and we must be the same to be right with Him. Jesus said we must be perfect as His Father in heaven is perfect. No amount of effort can save us. The bible says it does not depend on human will or exertion, but on God who has mercy(Rom 9). No amount of apathy, denial, medication, religion, or good deeds can save us...only Jesus can. Any one sin is worthy of an eternal death penalty and no amount of works or apathy will make up for it. Any one sin causes us to be dead spiritually and die physically. Because we are dead in our sins we must be made alive...only in Christ. We must be born again. Jesus said we will not see the kingdom of God unless we are born again.

God doesn't want part of you. He wants all of you. He is Lord, not you.

So confess Him as Lord. Ruler of your life. Believe He was raised from the dead and as He defeated death, that power that raised Him will give life your mortal body. Turn to Him in repentance and faith. For it is by grace you are saved by faith.....gift of God, not by works.

Come to Him all who are weary and heavy laden and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you and learn from Him for He is gentle and humble at heart and you will find rest for your souls. For His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Therefore, being justified by faith we can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Call on Him while He is near, seek Him while He may be found. No one is guaranteed another day. Don't let others sway you from this. For Jesus said the way to heaven is narrow but the road to hell is wide and most people are going there. Be one of the few. "We are made for God and our hearts will always be restless until we find rest in Him".

Cross..... Repentance Faith Resurrection .... Eternal death penalty paid in full. Righteousness of Christ. Justification.