



Message: ***Not Afraid to Dream*** | Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025 | Speaker: **Pastor Eddie Eddy**

**Luke 1:26-38 New International Version**

**The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

*<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

*<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

*<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

*<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."*

*<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.*

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

## **AT HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

I would like to share a story with you about a little boy named Wally. Now, Wally was kind of a big kid at the age of nine years old. He was one who didn't quite learn as fast as his classmates. But Wally had a great big heart. And because of that, most of the kids really loved him.

When the Sunday class was putting together their Christmas program...Wally's parents were wondering what part Wally might have in the play. They thought perhaps he'd be a stagehand, or maybe he could move sets and work the curtains. That would be a good spot for Wally because he was big enough to handle the heavy curtains.

To every one's excitement...including his own...Wally was actually given the part of the innkeeper. He only had to appear in one scene and he only had to deliver one line which help with his anxiety. It didn't take much practice at all and Wally had his line down perfect... "Sorry, there's no room in the inn."

Christmas Eve comes his parents and grandparents are seated in the audience and the children process in with everyone singing Oh, come all ye faithful...the lights dim and a hush settles over the room. The play begins with the familiar words of the narrator, "This is how the birth of the Messiah happened.

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that census should be taken of the entire Roman world." The curtain opens...Mary and Joseph walk up to the counter at the inn...Joseph asks Wally "Could we have a room for the night my wife is about to give birth?" ...and Wally freezes.

He tries to speak and but all that comes out is, "There is ...there is...there is." Everyone felt sorry and a little bit embarrassed for Wally. But Wally's friend who was playing Joseph knew that the show must go on. He decided to improvise it. He just lowered his head and he and Mary walked away in a very forlorn manner toward the makeshift stable. He was a very good actor. It was like a blanket of sadness just came over everyone...it even affected Wally.

Now everyone breathed a sigh of relief, and was glad that Joseph was so quick on his feet. But then...poor Wally out of pure love and compassion...found his voice and said..."hey... there's plenty of room at my place, so you could feel at home for Christmas."

PAUSE

This evening we gather to share in the story of the Birth of our savior. We gather because so many characters in our lives have influenced us in a way that draws us here. It is the work of the holy spirit that guides us to learn how to seek and share the compassion that shared on this birthday of Jesus. The spirit is always drawing us toward this place. A place where we can feel at home for Christmas. thanks for the pure hearts like the one that Wally had.

Think about all the characters in our Christmas story we have heard throughout our lives.

Herod is the villain. The innkeeper appears to be uncaring, and cold. The shepherd and the magi are the heroes of the story. And Mary and Joseph were the faithful ones who were willing to take on whatever came their way.

For me...these sacred scriptures always lead me to look for a different perspective in the characters in the stories of our faith. Like this one. Did you ever think that maybe the innkeeper gets a bad rap? Was it really his fault that the inn was flashing the no vacancy sign on that special night? Afterall...Caesar had ordered this nationwide Roman census.

Mary and Joseph were following the rules. They traveled home to Bethlehem to be counted. Can you imagine traveling by Donkey and being extremely pregnant to boot? It's no wonder they arrived late in the middle of the night.

So, was it really the inn keeper's responsibility to have a special place ready? Was it really his fault that there was only a manger for Jesus? When you look at the other characters in the Christmas story, they had an advantage that the innkeeper wasn't privy to. Mary had an angel visit her and explain to her that she was going to give birth to the Messiah. As we heard in the passage that Erin read for us...Mary willingly opened herself as a home for Jesus at Christmas.

Joseph had an angelic visitor in his dream that shared God's plan with him. Even the shepherds had a heavenly choir singing of the Messiah's birth, and the magi were given a star to follow.

Don't you have to believe that if the innkeeper had a gotten a heads up...that he would have reserved a special suite for this family? Don't you believe with all your heart that he would have made them feel at home for Christmas?

PAUSE

But he didn't. An angel didn't visit him.

You see, friends, in our scriptures of the Christmas story...the innkeeper represents all of us. The innkeeper represents every believer, because most of the time, we're not expecting that Jesus is going to come knocking on the door of our life and ask if we have any room for him in our home. Just like the innkeeper, we're not going to be given any special

revelation for preparation. Instead...when we're in the midst of a very busy time in our life, Jesus is going to show up unannounced to test our faithfulness.

That test comes in how we respond to people in need. Because we're going to see Jesus in the face of the poor, the powerless, and the less fortunate. We're going to see Jesus in the face of people who are being treated unfairly and need an advocate. Jesus makes his home among those who have lost everything in storms and fires and covid deaths and illnesses and addictions.

And our faithfulness is measured by how we respond to these people. And you know what? Those tests will come at a point in our lives where we're tired and irritable, overwhelmed by things that are beyond our control. Just like the innkeeper. That's when Jesus is most likely to show up and ask; "Do you have a place for me?"

If you think about it...the inn keeper was beyond gracious. He opened his home to a desperate couple when they were at their most vulnerable place in life. I have to believe that the Inn keeper is the best example of the true meaning of Christmas.

Friends...Jesus faced this dilemma throughout his entire ministry on earth. The idea that there is no home for Jesus. Once Jesus began His ministry, there was no home for him in his hometown of Nazareth. There was no home for him in the religious community because the chief priests feared and rejected him. He couldn't find a home with the rich because he told them to give away their wealth. He wasn't even welcome in the homes of the religiously accepted people because he made his home with sinners, and prostitutes and tax collectors and the diseased.

He found his home with those who opened their hearts and their doors to him. Because the people who did make room for him underwent a profound change of heart. In Jesus, they found peace, joy, hope, and love.

We have just spent the last 4 weeks of Advent preparing for this night. We gather tonight to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The one who made his home among us. God put on flesh and walked with us and talked with us...as his creation. We may not have had the angels bring us a message in a dream...but we have the scriptures that were handed down to us to give us the heads up that Jesus is on his way to restore his home.

Have you made room in your life for Jesus to feel at home for Christmas?

To God be the Glory

**Next Steps:**

- I will make room in my heart for Jesus
- I will be expectant about what Jesus' is doing and invite someone to worship on Christmas Eve
- I will pray for the kids and caretakers of Interhope
- I will pray about a financial gift for Interhope this Christmas