

PAUSE FOR PRAYER

WEEK 1

Hope



Many Rooms In My Father's House

A scripture reflection

“Don’t let this throw you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I’m taking.”

(John 14:1-4)

As the scripture above says “there is plenty of room in my fathers home”. Through the nativity story, and in fact throughout the bible, “homes” or “houses” are mentioned. We wanted to open up some of the doors this week to some of the houses/homes in the nativity story and those who walked through the door.



The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-6

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

When we think about the traditional manger that most of us have in our house its made of wood and has little figures in it. The reality of the concept is quite different. Joseph struggled to find a room for his family and would most likely have reached out to his own family. The “guest” rooms would have been full but Josephs family would most likely have taken them in. Would you have left a heavily pregnant lady outside in a shed?

In the days of Jesus, the room the family lived in would often have housed the animals at night, hence the presence of the manger.





Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-45

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and travelled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!
But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would
fulfil his promises to her!”



I think its safe to say that Mary would have been a little confused with the message from the Angel. She needed someone to talk to so she reached out to Elizabeth.

Elizabeth isn't expecting Mary, but she opens the door of her home and embraces Mary. Like the news the angel brought, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (2:10), Elizabeth was filled with joy and the holy spirit as she greeted Mary.

Even more poignant today.