

JOY TO THE WORLD: **PREPARE HIM ROOM**

Wednesday, December 27

Reading: Luke 2:4-20

Luke 2:10 *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

Joy to the world the Lord is come / Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room / And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing / And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Psalms 98 reads, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth...shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (98:4-7). Isaac Watts took these words to shape the opening verse of his hymn.

Of all the verses of 'Joy to the World,' this is the only one that has a hint of the Christmas story in it. But while the angels talked about "good news that will cause great joy" (Luke 2:10) and the wise men came looking for the new King (Matthew 2:2), it was only heaven and nature that sang at Jesus' first coming. Most people did not receive Him as their King; most hearts did not "prepare Him room." This reminds me that when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no room for them; no room for the birth of Jesus.

Many people still have no room for Jesus. They have room for the things they want; the things that they think will give them joy. But Jesus is not on that list. Yet Jesus is the only One who can supply the joy that we all seek. Joy is not just a feeling. It is more than happiness. It is a deep, penetrating contentment that can only come through a growing relationship with the Savior.

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them" (John 14:23).

And when He comes again as King of kings and Lord of lords, the world will finally shout, "Joy to the world the Lord is come!"

POINTS TO PONDER:

Do you have room for Jesus in your life? Many things can take the room that belongs to Jesus. What keeps you from having the joy of the Lord in your life? What do you need to do to make Jesus the King of your life?

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.