

# **“No Room!”**

*Luke 2:1-7*

**Intro.** – The biographers of Abraham Lincoln’s life meticulously point out his reading habits from the onset of his life. Those writing about Thomas Edison explain his limited formal education, how that he only had three months of public school in Port Huron, Michigan, but, all go on to show that even at a young age he was constantly studying and experimenting on his own. Men and women who write about Eli Whitney (man who invented the cotton gin) all point to how he displayed unusual mechanical ability at an early age.

We use these to illustrate the idea that most biographers go to great lengths to find evidence in the early life of their subject some clue(s) (events, habits etc.) which foretold their subject’s life.

Turning now to our text, verse 7 in particular, we find such is the case in the life of Christ. Holy Spirit inspired Luke records for us, “...and there was no room for them in the inn.” I ask: did ever a single incident in one’s infancy make such a complete summary of one’s life? Little did the occupants of that inn at Bethlehem realize they not only were turning away the Messiah of their country, but they were declining to receive the Savior of the world! Such was the ministry of our Lord. There was no room for His teaching in the minds of men, nor was there room for His Spirit in their lives! Yes, the biographer, Luke truly summarized the ministry of Jesus Christ by turning to His infancy and showing there was *no room* for Him.

Today, our Lord has the same experience He had in the opening moments of His incarnate state. Too many are saying, “No Room!” And what those in the inn did out of ignorance years ago, man today does willfully.

*Purpose: to consider ways we today are guilty of saying, “no room” to Jesus*

## **I With PREOCCUPIED Lives**

- too many individual lives are being absorbed into everything(one) but Christ
- the following summarizes this preoccupation:

### **A. With the World**

1. The world is constantly clamoring for our attention – e.g. The world would have our young people think that being accepted by their peers is utmost...
  - a. what becomes important then, is not how to live for and please Christ, but how to please and gain the approval of one another.
  - b. the results are disturbing – young people turn to alcohol, drugs, illicit sex and other worldly vices all for the sake of being accepted by their peers.
2. The world would have our young adults think money and prestige is all that is needed – which results in the following:
  - a. money becomes the # one objective in life...
  - b. prestige is to be gotten no matter the cost...
3. The world would have our older adults think their usefulness has come and gone... So why encumber the *millennials*, who will be older adults themselves in a few years), why impeded?

All of this explains why we have been instructed to “...not be conformed to the world.” (Romans 12:2). Too many are preoccupied or friends with the world (James 4:4), leaving little to no room for Jesus!

### **B. With Themselves**

1. Ours is a selfish world – Illus. – Mary and I were in an Arby’s where 2 boys stepped in front us... Cashier asked, “May I help you boys?” I spoke up and said, “We are ahead of these boys.” I then turned to these young boys and said, “You guys need to learn to wait your turn.”...
2. People obviously are interested solely in themselves... Sad thing about it they’re not afraid to let you know this is the way they think and reason...
3. People are so caught up in themselves they have little to no room for others.

This is the very thing Christ promises to deliver us from when we take up our crosses and follow Him

### **C. With Sin**

1. Sin is pleasurable... it is attractive

- a. we kid ourselves if we don't recognize this.
  - b. Scripture itself affirms this in Hebrews 11:25 – Moses chose to suffer than to enjoy...
  - c. note: Bible also makes clear sin's pleasures are temporary, short-lived...
2. Sin is demanding
- a. it demands your whole being – body, soul and spirit.
  - b. Romans 6:16 *“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?”*

Thus, the individual preoccupied with the world, or themselves, or sin, not only will not, but they cannot give room to Jesus. May we clearly see, then there is no room for Jesus in preoccupied lives!

## II With EMBITTERED Homes

- Illus. – years ago a Gallop Poll showed that most people considered the home an important part of their life; yet, nearly two thirds of all Americans today think the home is in decline and not relevant...
- why is this? Too many homes have little if any room for Christ and the results are disturbing = embittered homes! What is an embittered home?!

### A. Mates Do Not Love One Another

- husbands/wives not looking after each other... How can this be?
- 1. Perhaps they got married on *their* terms... you know – boy meets girl...
  - let me say clearly – be most selective in whom you choose to marry, if you choose...
- 2. Perhaps one or both are living preoccupied lives...
- 3. Perhaps a job, money etc. is causing extra tension...

Whatever the problem or excuse, you can count on this, if a marriage isn't making it, the real problem stems from there being no room for Jesus!

### B. Kids Receive No Discipline

- 1. By no discipline mean – kids are not restrained like they must and really want to be...
  - Illus. – pressure is taken off kids when parents lay the law down and enforce it...
- 2. By no discipline mean – kids are not being shown they are really loved and wanted...
- 3. By no discipline mean – kids are getting away with junk: back talk to parents, teachers and adults... no respect for older people... just being rude and thoughtless...

A home where the kids can think, say and do what they please with no restraint is a home that has no room for Jesus.

### C. World Receives Its Rubbish

- 1. Home is the oldest divine institution. It was established for the purpose of enhancing man's relationship with God...
- 2. Yet, when no room is given to the Creator of the home, the home becomes a producer of the world's sorrow, heart ache and problems.

Thus, we must see there is no room for Christ even today in embittered homes.

## III In UNBELIEVING Churches

- by unbelieving we also mean disobedient churches (Hebrews 4:6) – churches who falter in the following areas of unbelief:

### A. Unbelieving in Their Doctrine

- 1. The Bible is being questioned today as from the start....
- 2. In its place are man-made creeds and laws placed there in hopes of APPEALING to the people.
- 3. The results are disturbing – unbelieving churches producing uninformed, misinformed, deceived and disillusioned people...

The church that will not stand solely on God's Word as its sole source of authority is a church with no room for Jesus!

B. Unbelieving in Their Worship

1. Tradition takes the place of God's Word.
2. Individuals become observers/complainers rather than participants and contributors.
3. The worship assembly becomes a cold mechanical format rather than an effective expression of worship and praise together.

C. Unbelieving in Their Practice

1. Rather than adhering to the divine pattern for the local church (church polity) – Popes, synods, councils, headquarters, districts, Senior Pastors etc take the place of God's Word
2. Thus, according to Scripture, any local church that doesn't faithfully preach/practice the Word of God, that doesn't have willing/qualified men in places of leadership, that church has no room for the King of kings and Lord of lords.

**Conclusion:** A few years ago in Chicago, IL, a man was pounding on doors demanding he be given admittance. He would cover the peep hole with his hand so residents couldn't see him and then he would kick, scam and bang some more on the door. Police say he was unclean, unkempt and belligerent. When a household would let him in, he would bound through the door and start asking a bunch of questions insisting he was a government census taker. Police say that he was in fact, Ted Kanootzson, age 27 – a government census taker.

In Revelation 3:20, Scriptures speak of another door knocker. Only this door knocker conducts Himself much differently than did Ted Kanootzson. This door knocker has clearly identified Himself, He has made known His request and now He asks admission. Listen to what He says: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.”*

Brethren and friend, have you answered the door or have you put out a “No Room” sign? Today, we hope you see there is no room for Jesus in Preoccupied Lives, Embittered Homes, and Unbelieving Churches!