

# The Innkeeper

“Advent – A Monologue”



*“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”  
Luke 2:7*

“Oh, there was room in the inn; of course, there is always room for one who has enough to pay for that special room that is set aside, just in case someone of importance needs accommodations.

“But, to me, at that busy time those two were part of the poor that had come as decreed to pay their taxes. After all. Yes, there was room. But who was going to take in a young thing in her condition. I had no idea this so-called miracle was going to happen. No one had told me to be prepared. I ran a very reputable inn. I had fine

furnishings and white imported linen sheets. I had heard the cries and groans of these young women, before, many of them too young to be having children. I could have had very important people that night, people of stature in the community. And, there was the subject of liability. After all, I carry no insurance for this type of event.

“She was pretty though--for a country lass. The husband seemed a sullen and earnest type. Sometimes these local men can be risky though, you realize. I didn't actually leave the young couple out in the cold. I sent them along to the lower quarter of town. There were plenty of midwives down there who were accustomed to this type of situation. They had all the needed instruments and swaddling stuff. I had a reputation to keep. At least that is what I thought that night.

“At the time I did not realize that Christ came to my door and knocked. I turned him away. I didn't have just any angel! I had Christ Himself at my doorstep. I missed the most blessed gift that we can have. I turned the actual birth of the King away at my door because I was more concerned about myself than others.

“I can understand why Christ told about the gentleman who laid a festive banquet and waited for the important guests to come. But they didn't come. So, he asked everyone on the street to come. They also had such poor excuses, just as I did.

“Then I found out that angels had appeared to shepherds. They are such a disreputable group of people. I wondered why He chose them and not someone who had status in the community. I eventually came to realize that He had come to me. I had some status in the community. I thought my business and my reputation were too important to help a young couple with child.



Note: Authorities disagree on the type of manger where Christ was born. Each person sees himself as an image of God, so we have debates on the color of Christ's skin, his build, his mannerism, etc. All seem to agree the important thing is that He was born for each of us. Our room for Him is the most important thing.

“We were always waiting for a better offer. He is always there. Sometimes He asks for what we think is too much. That night He asked me to allow the young couple to sleep at my establishment. First of all, He just

asks us to believe in Him as our personal Savior. Sometimes we are called to feed the poor or cloth the poor.

“Matthew recorded how Christ also told us about going to visit the lonely, the people in prison, or talk to the stranger on the street. People questioned that they had never seen him hungry or in prison. I don’t think they really comprehended what He was saying any more than I did that night.

“Once a lawyer questioned Christ about just who his neighbor was that he should help. Christ told him about a young man who had been beaten and robbed and many people passed him by for various reasons. We all have our reasons at the time, that afterward seems so weak. Christ concluded by telling him ‘*Do this and you will live.*’ He wasn’t talking about life on earth. He was talking about eternal life with Him. We are all given that opportunity regardless of our station in life. The shepherds heard and accepted Christ, but many refused to listen. And so, I turned aside a King while I waited for a proper paying guest.”

Note: This is one interpretation of what may have happened so many years ago in Bethlehem. Each man’s idea is important not as to the place or exact time, or response about the inn vs. kataluma, but room in the heart for the one that Isaiah hailed as “*Mighty God, Counsellor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*”

These are just a few of the images that have been given as the place where Christ was born. Luke 2:7 translates "kataluma" as "inn". But in Luke 22:11 the same word is used for what seems to be a personal residence:



Prayer: Our Heavenly Father. We know that You did come as a baby to save us from our sins, and yet, we also have a hard time accepting You even after all the years, the many miracles, gifts, and witnessing we have heard and seen. Please, dear Lord, help us not to be like the Innkeeper, or the people who could not come to the Lord’s banquet. Help us to say yes and let Him into our hearts. Then help us to do Your work and spread Your Gospel. Amen

1. Would you welcome Joseph and Mary into your home today? Remember, the innkeeper did not have any notice or angels like the shepherds. (Some sources think they stayed with relatives, but the Bible doesn’t tell us that)
2. Do we welcome the stranger in ragged clothes into our church? Do we welcome them into our home? How can we change that?
3. Why is it so much easier to send money than to get personally involved?
4. Do we have room for the Babe of Bethlehem today?

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