

THE SADDEST VERSE IN THE BIBLE

“While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn’t any room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:6, 7)

The saddest words of tongue or pen are the sad words, “No room in the Inn”. No room in the Inn. It saddens my heart every time I think about it.

Our Lord Jesus was born into this world like an unwanted child. He was sent to redeem a world that hated Him. He was born to die and not to live.

Consider for a moment this baby that was born in Bethlehem. The most extraordinary baby ever to be born. Get this: When he was born he was older than his own mother that gave birth to him. Think about that. A baby, that at his birth was older than his own mother. But this is true. Jesus was older than Mary when she gave birth to him.

He’s a baby that when He was born the very datelines of history bent around His cradle. When we say that is B.C. and A.D. (Before Christ & after Christ) it all revolves around the Christ child. When we say the year is 2007 we mean that about 2000 years ago there was something so exciting happen that had never happened before; never had there been a baby born of whom the datelines of history bend around His cradle. But you can say that about the Son of God. My friend He came once and He’s coming again.

And let me tell you something more. Jesus was back there in the beginning of time and with his hands he created the

universe. In Gen. 1:26 God said, "Let US make man in OUR own image", Who was God talking to? He was talking to His son. So Mary held the creator of the universe in her arms.

And let me tell you something else dear people, this Jesus stood on the very rim of eternity. He created the world. In fact the Gospel of John says that He was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own but His own received Him not. But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His name.

This Jesus, one day back in the beginning of time He created the universe. He reached out with the torch of His omnipotence and He set a blaze the sun and it hasn't gone out since. He hung the moon in its place.

And man thinks he's doing something great if he lands on the moon. What about the God that made the moon. He's greater than the man that walks on it.

We have a wonderful God. He hung more stars in the sky than astronomers can count. And they've been counting them for years. He carved out the valleys and He piled up the mountains. He created the oceans and the seas and He set the rivers and streams hunting them.

Then to crown His creation one day, He reached down and with a clump of clay, He took and formed it, fashioned it into a man. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.

So that baby that was born in Bethlehem is the one that made you and the one that made me. My friend, the creator of the universe and the creator of each one of us is the one

that was born on that day in the city of Bethlehem; this Jesus that we're talking about.

And friend as our Lord looked down upon this earth and He saw the sin and how that satan, that satanic ambassador from the kingdom of darkness, came knocking at the door of man's heart. And man by transgression fell. Sinned and failed God. And Adam & Eve partook of the forbidden fruit. And the curse of sin came upon the earth.

Then God began making plans to send His son. And our Lord Jesus looked upon a group of people like you and me that couldn't pull themselves up by their own boot straps, couldn't save ourselves.

And the Lord Jesus, the one who could speak worlds into existence, the only begotten Son of the Living God, the King of Heaven, the one that there is no name that can really describe Him,

One day got into His jeweled chariot, it was that first Christmas Eve; no doubt, He road down the streets of gold, thru the pearly gates, across the stairway of the stars, and on that bright Judean night as the angels sang and as the morning stars accompanied Him, the Lord Jesus stepped out of that jeweled chariot and laid aside His kingly robes and took upon Himself the robes of sinful flesh, God became man. What a day! What a miracle conceived of the Holy Ghost, not of men but of the Holy Ghost of God.

Wise men following that star, that star that led the wise men to Jesus. And that brightest star put on its whitest robe and it ran across the sky to point a finger down at Bethlehem's babe as if to say to the whole wide world, "Here He is! Here

He is! God's greatest man, man's greatest God and the only perfect man ever to walk on this earth, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God; That's the Jesus I'm talking about. He stepped down from heaven.

Oh people get excited about men taking their journey into outer space. I get more excited about the man from outer space who took His journey to the planet earth and was born in Bethlehem of Judea.

But you know where He was born was not a castle. It was not a mansion. It was not a hospital. It wasn't even a Dr.'s office. It wasn't even a home. It was a barn, where the lowing of cattle was heard. Why? Because the streets of Bethlehem were so busy and the inns were so filled with people coming to sign up for the paying of their taxes.

So there was no room in the Inn. And Jesus was born of the virgin Mary in a barn. I believe that most of you sitting here can understand what a barn is used for. A barn is a place where you keep the animals; the cows, horses, the goats, the sheep, the pigs, the chickens; the various animals. And why do we keep them in a barn? Because we don't want them to get in our way. We don't want them to interfere. We want to be able to go to them when it is convenient for us but we don't want them coming into the house and disrupting everything.

And you know, there are many people that have Jesus in the barn of their life. We don't want Jesus to get in the way of our parties and program. We don't want Him to interfere with our ballgames and our sports activities. We don't want Him to get in the way of our television shows and our movies. To many times we want to be able to God when it is convenient for us but we don't want Him to come into the

center of our life. We don't want him to be the Lord of our life on the throne of our hearts. There are many people who have Jesus in the barn of their life.

Then it says, "they wrapped Him in strips of clothes", (swaddling clothes). What are strips of clothes? Those are rags. My friend there are many people today that that's what they have for Jesus and that is rags; the left over's of their time and talent, the left over's of their money, the left over's of their worship. They give Jesus the rags. They wrap Him in rags. They put Him in the barn. Their actions say, "Jesus, don't get in the way, don't interfere. If You get in the way we can't go to our parties, our programs, our ballgames when we want to. We can't engage in our sin. We can't let all of these worldly things take your place.

There are many people today that are still doing what they did in Bethlehem. They have put Jesus in the barn of their life and wrapped Him in rags. People who have hearts like Bethlehem's people did.

You remember when the wise men came, paid tribute to Him with their gold, frankincense and myrrh. They stopped over in Jerusalem and inquired of the religious leaders, "Where is He that has been born, the King of the Jews? We've seen His star in the East and we've come to worship Him". And the religious leaders took down their scrolls and they started reading from the prophet Micah, "And thou Bethlehem in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah; for out of thee shall come a governor, that shall rule my people Israel". And they said according to this prophecy, this Jesus, this Messiah that you're talking about born in a little town south of here about six miles, called Bethlehem. The wise men went on down to worship Jesus.

But the religious leaders began to tell Herod the King what they had heard and that there had been a baby born in Bethlehem that was going to grow up to be a king.

Remember the reaction of Herod. Herod immediately felt like his kingship was threatened. And that this Jesus, this baby born in Bethlehem, was going to unseat him and overthrow the Roman Empire and the nation of Israel. And so because he feared Him, he ordered out his soldiers, to do one of the most awful things ever to happen, recorded in the Word of God.

He sent out marching orders to Bethlehem to kill all the baby boys that were two years old and under. Go and kill all the babies because there's been a baby born down there that's going to become a king and we can't let that baby grow up.

He said go and kill all the baby boys. Jeremiah the prophet had talked about this. Those Roman soldiers went into the streets of Bethlehem taking the lives of many babies.

I saw a picture the other day in a family bible. The artist's conception depicting what they felt like happened when the Roman soldiers were killing all of those innocent baby boys.

I tell you, it was an awful scene. It covered two pages. It showed Roman soldiers grabbing babies from mothers' arms and slashing off their heads right in the mother's presence. It showed swords going thru the stomachs of little babies. It showed babies kicking in a puddle of their own blood. It showed mothers weeping and crying and running, experiencing the unimaginably horrible.

And as I looked at that picture I thought to myself, why? Why must all of these babies die? Why the godless

massacre of innocent little ones? Why must the streets of Bethlehem drink the blood of little babies? Then it was struck home to me again, all because they didn't have room for a little baby called Jesus. Because they didn't have room for Him they killed all of those other babies.

But it is not any better today than it was then. In fact, it is worse. You see, 2000 years ago when Jesus came the first time the devil was murdering the babies two years old and younger. Now, 2000 years later when Jesus is preparing to come the second time, the devil is murdering the babies even before they get out of their mother's womb. Almost 50 million babies have been murdered through abortion. Why the godless killing of all of these innocent children today with abortion? Why do we live in a society that embraces the doctrine that promotes a woman's right to choose to murder her own child in her womb. It is simple...there is no room for Jesus in America.

But there was one baby that lived and escaped the murderous massacre in Bethlehem. The sweet little Holy child, Jesus. Joseph and Mary warned of the angel, they fled to Egypt.

My friend, there was no room for Jesus in the heart of King Herod. There was no room for Jesus in the Inn. There was no room for Jesus in Bethlehem.

We would expect for the people of the world not to find room for the Lord. But what about the religious leadership of Jesus' day? They didn't have room for Jesus either. You remember those religious leaders that the wise men stopped and enquired of and said, "Where is He that is born the King of the Jews? We've seen the star in the East and we've come to worship Him". Those religious leaders pull down

the scrolls and said this Jesus you're talking about born in a little town south of here about six miles called Bethlehem. The wise men went on down to see Jesus.

But do you read what those religious leaders did? They didn't go. They didn't go. Why didn't the religious leaders go? You see the religious leaders of the past, the prophets in the O.T.; it seems that they stood on their tip toes to try to get one glimpse of the coming Messiah. But the generation to whom He came to wouldn't walk six miles to see Him. It breaks your heart my friend.

What about us today? I tell you there's an indictment on the church going people and the religious spiritual leadership of our nation and our world like perhaps we've never seen.

I know of people today and many of us are guilty of it, we get caught up in religious activity. No doubt these religious leaders of that time, they were too busy, maybe they had a board meeting, or a church business meeting, or choir practice, maybe they were busy praying. Oh my friend it's wonderful to pray. The only way we will see God do what He desires to do is through prayer. But this was the time they should've been going to worship Him, bending upon their knees at His feet. Maybe they had errands to run. Maybe they had a lot of religious work. All of us as spiritual leaders and pastors and evangelists and church goers, how many times have we got caught up in "church work" and loose sight of the work of the church.

Many pastors that I have talked to with a broken heart say, "Bro. Todd, I get so busy, seems like all I do is hold someone's hand or be just a baby sitter. I'm not being able to do the work that God has called me to do."

How many times do we get caught up in religious activity that's not going to amount to anything for the furthering of the Kingdom of God? We need to measure everything we're doing and ask ourselves, "Am I doing church work or am I doing the work of the church? Am I fulfilling what God has put upon my life to do?"

I tell you there has been a lack of dedication on the part of the religious leadership in our communities and in our nation.

Now get this, notice that the religious leaders were pointing the wise men in the direction of Jesus but they themselves were living a hypocritical life. Today, we still have some preachers pointing people in the direction of Jesus but they themselves are living a hypocritical life.

Just to let you know what I'm talking about, there is a preacher, I'm not going to call his name, but he will not come and preach unless you guarantee him \$20,000 up front. My friend, what has happened to preaching for Jesus?!?

I know a pastor that had a guest evangelist that you would know if I called their name. This evangelist REQUIRED 10 white escalades to pick her and her anterage up at the airport and to transport them to and from the service. What a lack of humility. Thank God, this pastor did not fulfill this requirement.

A pastor friend had another evangelist that you would recognize their name. At the end of the revival the pastor proudly handed this evangelist the biggest check the church had been privileged to give to any special speaker. The evangelist looked at the amount of the check and handed it back to the pastor and said, "This won't pay my bills I need more money." This saddens your heart. Many preachers

pointing people in the direction of Jesus but they don't make room for Jesus.

I conducted revival services in a community where one of the neighboring churches decided they were going to dismiss their Sunday night service specifically for the purpose of supporting the revival. When the revival rolled around everybody from the neighboring church showed up except for one person. Guess who it was? The pastor of the church. I found out later he was determined not to miss an episode of Survivor. That breaks your heart and it breaks the heart of the people.

This is the kind of lack of leadership, the lack of dedication that is happening. Oh God help us. We need more fire in the pulpit. More fire in the hearts of all of us as pastors, evangelists, and Christian leaders. And we need to be making room for Jesus; finding time for the King of Kings instead of religious people crowding Him out.

The people of God need to make room for Jesus. I heard about a pastor the other day that got so upset because he couldn't get the people to come. And every program he would put forth they wouldn't come, Sunday night or Wednesday night. So finally in frustration he just closed the Sunday night and Wednesday night services. Six months later when the church board found out about it, they fired him.

We need to get caught up in the things of God, in the work of Christ, not religious errand running.

The religious leaders during the time when Jesus was born no doubt didn't have time or didn't take time to go and see Jesus.

The religious leaders and people of today many times have got caught up in this too. I've known of people and you have too, who will drive a hundred miles to go to a ball game and eat a weenie sandwich and drink a coke and stay up past midnight. But they won't go across town to hear about Jesus.

Oh friend what I'm saying is, we need to get Jesus out of the barn of our life and get him on the throne of our heart. Get Him out of the rags and put Him in robes.

And when Jesus began His earthly ministry it didn't seem like it got any better.

You remember He said in Matthew 8:20, "The foxes have holes and the birds they have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

You remember it says in John 7:53 after Jesus concluded one of His teachings that every man went to his own house. The very next verse, John 8:1 tells you Jesus went to the Mt. of Olives. He didn't have a house to go to.

No matter how humble the house you live in is Sir, Lady, Young Person, it's still better than the one the Lord had. He slept out on the ground most of the time. Yes it gets cold in Palestine.

He didn't even have a pillow for His head. Some people get very fussy about their pillows. But Jesus didn't have one to get fussy about. The foxes were better off than He was. The birds were better off than He was.

Then, there was no room for Jesus in the territory of the Gadarenes. He came to the town of the Gadarenes on one occasion and there were two demon possessed men that came out of the cemetery. The bible describes it in Matthew the 8th chapter as a very dramatic time and it was a time where the demons were talking to Jesus. They asked Him, "Why have you come to torment us?" What did Jesus do? He answered those demons prayer request. You may know someone who gets their prayers answered. Don't let that be the only gage as to whether that person is living right. Jesus even answered the request of those demons.

Jesus commanded the demons to come out of those two men. Those demons went into a herd of hogs and the hogs went down into a lake and were drowned.

The man that was taking care of the hogs went into Gaderra and told the whole town what had happened. You would think Holy Ghost revival would break loose in Gaderra with a miracle of deliverance like this one. But what happened instead? Matthew 8:34 describes it. It says, "The whole city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw Him, they besought Him that He would depart out of their coasts."

They said, "Get out of here Jesus! We don't want You in our town!" What was the problem? You see hog raising was more important than soul winning in Gaderra. And it still is for a lot of folks.

Those hogs represent your livelihood and mine. There's a lot of people whose job is more important to them than Jesus is. They'll do things that will violate the Word of God just to get a paycheck.

Oh my friend Gaderra was such a town. They besought Jesus to leave their coast.

Then there was no room for Jesus in Nazareth. Jesus was even unwanted and unwelcome in His own town and His own home church. He went into the city of Nazareth on one occasion, Luke 4:16, He stood up to speak in the synagogue he was raised in on the Sabbath day. He began to quote the scripture from Isaiah.

In verse 18 He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty to them that are bruised. He then said unto them in verse 21, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

But the religious leaders couldn't take it. They grabbed at Jesus and carried Him out to push Him off of a bluff, a cliff, a hill outside of Nazareth to let Him fall to the ground, in a horrible death. But He passed thru the midst of them and went on His way.

But the point I want to make is this, Jesus was unwanted in His own home town and His own home church. Can you imagine how that must've hurt?

I know how it would've hurt me. Now suppose Jesus would've been an outstanding ball player. Suppose He would've been an entertainer. Suppose Jesus would've been a movie star. Suppose he would've been the governor of the state or the president. He would've got a parade. He would've got flowing banners, confetti, a big banquet, He'd of

given a speech, had a street named after Him, maybe even buildings named after Him.

But friend, Jesus is better than any ball player that ever lived! He is more important than any TV or movie star that has ever lived! He is more important than any president or any other politician that has ever served office. We need to make room for Jesus!!!

They didn't know who He was. Nazareth, His hometown made Him leave.

Even Jerusalem, the religious capital of the world, had no room for Jesus. You remember what happened only a few days before His crucifixion.

Jesus was still trying to tell the religious leaders, John 8:58, "Before Abraham existed, I existed. I am before Abraham, before Isaac, Jacob..." Again, the religious leaders couldn't take it. And John 8:59 says they picked up rocks, to throw them at Him, to run Him out of town like a stray dog.

It was probably after that, that He climbed up on that hillside overlooking Jerusalem, the Mt. of Olives and He looked down upon Jerusalem, that city, and with tears streaming down His cheeks He spoke these words in Matthew 23:37, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou doest kill the prophet and stone them that are sent unto thee. How often would I have gathered thee as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing."

Jesus with a broken heart after the way He's been treated was saying, I would love to take you into my arms and just hug you and love you, and forgive you, but you won't let Me.

Judas Iscariot had no room for Jesus, He betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver.

Pontius Pilate, had no room for Jesus, He delivered Him to be crucified.

The Jews had no room for Jesus, they cried, "Let His blood be on our heads."

The Roman soldiers had no room for Jesus, they rammed a crown of thorns on his head, ripped his back open with a cat of 9 tails, drove nails and spikes in his hands and feet and plunged a spear in His side.

These were dark days as the Son of God hung on the old rugged cross.

But let me tell you something folks. The world hasn't gotten any better since these days. The world has gotten worse.

And I've never seen the devil's crowd more on fire for the devil than they are now. I've never seen the war against Jesus Christ as great as it is now.

The Herod's and the Pilates of our time: the crooked politicians, the politically correct, the ACLU, the Satanists, the witches. the NOW, Planned Parenthood.

There has been an all out attack upon the Lord Jesus Christ in our nation.

There has never been such an attack on nativity scenes on school and government property. There's never been such an attack on singing the Christmas Carols or having Christmas plays. In every state we go to it's there, satanism

and witchcraft. It is taught in the public schools with the likes of Hairy Potter and yet the Word of God cannot be taught. No room for Jesus in our public schools.

No room for Jesus in many of America's public schools. Many public schools have banned the Gideon's from distributing bibles on campus. Some of those very same schools have allowed Planned Parenthood to establish health clinics on campus to distribute condoms and birth control pills to students. I say we need to get rid of the Planned Parenthood health clinics and allow the Gideon's to resume bible distribution on public school campuses.

The ACLU launched an all out attack against the Gideon's. One of their leading spokespersons said that if they have their way the Gideon's will never step foot on public school campuses to give bibles to students ever again. I say, if Tim Todd has his way, if the people of God have their way, let's get rid of the ACLU and keep the Gideon's. Thank God for all the work the Gideon's have done and continue to do to get the Word of God on public school campuses.

Legally, student's have the right to give bibles way on their school campus during non instructional time. And thank God for many bold young people who are standing up for God on their public school campus.

There is such a need for the distribution of the Truth for Youth bible that God placed in my heart to design. Most of you know, it consist of the New Testament along with powerful comics dealing with the truth about issues of moral concern that young people face. Student's legal rights on public school campus are displayed on the back cover. Thank God we have distributed more than 1.2 million copies

to Christian young people who have given them to unsaved friends in school!

But we're having in our communities and in our nation an all out war against God. Christ is not wanted. Jesus is unwanted.

Think about the U.N. A group of more than a hundred nations dedicated to bring peace to the world and yet the prince of peace is not even welcome there.

You know what disturbs me is that Gorbachev, the former leader of the former Soviet Union is an antichrist and yet the way he's being received in this country is frightening. It concerns me. Since he left office has been speaking in America's public schools, colleges and universities. I'm not saying he is the antichrist. But he is an anti Christ. (anti God, anti Christ, anti Bible).

It concerns me that a man who is an atheist, a man who is antichrist, a man who has represented a communistic, atheistic nation is being received so well in America. Think about it. We live in a nation that wants to crucify the Son of God. And get rid of the nativity scenes and get rid of the Ten Commandments off of the walls of our public schools, stop the singing of Christmas carols and Christmas plays on public schools campus. Our public schools teach student's that they evolved from apes. And yet, we roll out the red carpet for an antichrist.

Are you beginning to get the drift of what I'm saying here? Are you beginning to see the trend? Are you beginning to see the way the wind is blowing?

I'm going to go one step further with this today. There are increasing numbers of people who want to take Christ out of Christmas. They don't want Jesus to get in the way of Christmas.

How would you like for it to be your birthday and people didn't want you to get in the way of your own birthday. God help us! There are those who say, "Now they're going to ruin Christmas by bringing Jesus into it again." Isn't that shameful? That is the mentality of our nation. That is so spiritually shallow.

But we're getting the news media, the antichrist people, the atheistic forces, the satanic groups and so many others; the educated, the legislated and the politically correct who have an all out war to do away with Christmas.

Christ is unwanted even in Christmas. Too many merchants only see it as a time for making money. Many merchants like GAP who refuse to allow the word "Christmas" be on display in their stores. And many people see it only as a time of getting presents or giving presents and I thank God for that because the Spirit of giving is certainly what Christmas is all about.

But I want to challenge you with this question. Whose birthday is it and what are you getting Jesus for His birthday? And I want to challenge you further. I challenge you to give something to Jesus and to His work and the kingdom of God that surpasses the amount of money of the best present you give; whether it's to your wife, your husband, your kids or your parents. I challenge you to give your best gift to the one whose birthday we're celebrating.

You can follow Matthew 25 by giving to the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting people in prison. Jesus said, "When you have done it to the least of these you've done it unto me."

Let us, as Christians, not fall into the same trap as so many in the world have fallen into, by leaving Christ out of Christmas.

Today so many people say, "I would make room for Jesus but I don't have time to pray, I don't have time to read my bible, I don't have time to go to church." Friend, if you have so much business to attend to that you can't faithfully read your bible, pray and go to church, you have more business than God ever intended for you to have.

Oh my friend, too many people still have Jesus in the barn where He won't get in the way. We don't even want Him to get in the way of Christmas time. We want to put Him in rags- our left over time, our left over money, our left over talent and our left over worship. And our Lord is the King, my friend, we don't make Him King, He's already the King of Kings. You make him the Lord of your life on the throne of your heart.

What we do is acknowledge Him as King and Lord of our lives. He's already King.

They finally found room for Jesus here on the earth. Was it in Bethlehem? No. Was it in King Herod's heart? No. Was it in Gaderra? No. Was it in Nazareth? No. Was it in Jerusalem? No. Was it in Judas' heart? No. Was it in Pilates heart? No. Was it in the Jews' hearts? No. Was it in the Roman Soldiers hearts? No.

Where did they finally find room for Jesus here on the earth?
On the old rugged cross, suspended between heaven and
earth. Heaven wasn't ready for him and the earth didn't
want him. He died on that cross so you could live for him.

If you make room for Jesus down here on the earth then he'll
make room for you in heaven. But if you don't make room
for Jesus here on the earth then there will be no room for
you in heaven.

Today, make Jesus the Lord of your life on the throne of
your heart. Make room for Jesus!!!

May your family have a wonderful Christ-mas this year.
God's very best to you!