

**MESSAGE
FROM
PASTOR
PHIL**



**No Room
At the Inn
Luke 2:4-7**

The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is eighty miles, which is a four day journey on the back of a donkey. Not a good trip, especially for a pregnant girl in her 9th month. It was not Christmas, it was tax time. Joseph could never have imagined his small hometown of Bethlehem would be so filled with people. Where did they all come from? Where would they stay? There were no Marriotts or Hiltons. There wasn't even a Motel Six. There was an inn. Now the inns of those days were not like the inns we see today. There was no pool, no in-room TV or telephone; no room service or showers. The inns of that day were just a small building with two or three private rooms for the rich and a large common area where most people would lay a bedroll and sleep the night away. There were no beds as we know them. There may have been what we would call an "outhouse." There would have been a fire for cooking. Without air conditioning it would have been hot and muggy with so many sweaty people crowded into such a small space. It was tax time and just as it is on April 15th today, tempers and patience were probably short. But there was no room for them at the inn.

We usually think of the inn keeper as a mean person who could have cared less if there was a place for the young travelers to stay. He had his hands full with all these people coming to his town. I'm sure some were demanding to haggle over price. I see myself as the inn keeper, harried and hassled with too many distractions and too many needs. My inn is full! What do you expect me to do? I have no more room. What? She's about to give birth? Well, I guess you could find a place out back in the stable. The inn keeper has a heart; not because it's Jesus, but because a young pregnant girl is about to give birth. He did the best he could.

There was no room in the inn for Jesus to be born. Herod felt there was no room for another king in the land. During His ministry Jesus told a would-be follower that He didn't have a room to lay his head. The religious leaders of the day didn't have room for Jesus in their religion, and had Him killed.

As a society, as a church, as a person, do we make room for Jesus today? We know who He is, yet somewhere between due dates, appointments, traffic and television we don't make time to sit at His feet. We run from this mall to that appointment, to this party, to that friend's house, until we are so tired we often forget "the reason for the season," the miracle of Christ's coming. There is little room in our hearts for that which should be most important during this season. We overlook the peace of God, exchanging it for the chaos we call Christmas.

Some of you may be saying, not me pastor, see I am here. I made room today. If you are truthful, is your mind on worship or on the thousand little details left to deal with this year. If you are like me your mind is on the little details that have to be taken care of this time of year. If I am truthful, I spend more time planning for worship than actually doing it. I spend more time reading about prayer than on my knees. I spend more time talking about God than talking to God.

Don't you see? That's why He came. Despite the lack of room and the time I have for God in my life, Jesus came for me and for you and for the whole world. He knew we weren't perfect, but he came anyway. Even though we don't have room for Him, He has room in His heart for us. This Christmas, amidst the noise, confusion, the feasting and sharing with your family, among all that stuff, realize the love God has for you, shown in the birth of a small child born in a manger. Praise Him with all that you are, glorify Him in the highest and know the peace that He gives to His people. He gave that peace to us because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who was born and was crucified, that we might have everlasting life. God gave us His best and today He's still waiting for us to make room for Him in our hearts and lives. I pray this will be the year you will open your heart to Jesus and have a very Merry Christmas.

THROW BACK SUNDAY Jan 14



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 2 Ken Brown
- 13 Parveen Medellin
- 13 Alycea Olsen
- 15 Abdul Kuba
- 24 Debra Trull
- 27 Rose Kwiecein
- 31 Travis Lawson
- 31 Bonnie Vidal

You are invited to help us celebrate the



of Dellview Baptist Church!!!!

Join us for a morning of praise and celebration.

Bring fried chicken

(any type, from anywhere or even "homemade") and a dessert.

The church will furnish the potato salad, beans, rolls and tea.



WHAT IS THROWBACK SUNDAY??

It means we are thinking and reflecting on things "back when." This picture is of the original Dellview Baptist Church in the 1950's.



DELLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SAN ANTONIO, TX
210-344-6273 dellviewbaptistchurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 NO BIBLE STUDY OR CHOIR	4	5	6 10:00 AM Deep and Wide Meeting - gym
7 Kids Sunday-kids stay in church with parents 9:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM WITeam Practice 10:45 AM The Lord's Supper 10:45 AM Worship	8	9	10 7:00 PM Choir Practice	11	12	13 9:00 AM Deacon's Meeting
14 Throwback 66th Anniv Sunday - fried chicken dinner 9:00 AM Finance Team 9:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM WITeam Practice 10:45 AM Worship	15 Office Closed Federal Holiday	16	17 7:00 PM Choir Practice	18		
21 9:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM WITeam Practice 10:45 AM Worship	22	23	24 7:00 PM Choir Practice	25		
28 9:00 AM Finance Team 9:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM WITeam Practice 10:45 AM Worship	29	30	31 7:00 PM Choir Practice	1	2	3 9:00 AM Deacon's Meeting