

“The Wonder of a Manger”

The Wonder of Christmas Sermon Series  
December 18, 2016 – The Fourth Week of Advent

Do you know the most often stolen Christmas decoration?

I. We are tempted to romanticize the manger and birth of Jesus.

The distance for Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem would have been between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ miles.

When they arrived, all the inns were \_\_\_\_\_ - sold out!

The original Greek word for inn was καταλμα meaning g\_\_\_\_\_, inn, or overflow area.

II. How could Mary and Joseph and God let this happen?

The humble birth was not a m\_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_!

The place, time, and lowly shepherds as messengers were all a part of God’s g\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_.



God did not want to conquer us or scare us. God wants to love us and be loved by us. How better to be loved than as a baby?

III. The plan is to win us back.

David Kalas writes, “The manger is God’s s\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_!”

God wants more than s\_\_\_\_\_. God wants r\_\_\_\_\_.

The manger and the cross show God will go a\_\_\_\_\_ to make it happen. John 1:14

The Creator of the Universe took on human f\_\_\_\_\_ - Incarnation.

Why would God do this? 1 John 3:8 says,

*The Son of God was revealed for this purpose,  
to destroy the works of the devil.*

IV. The Love of God is Reaching Out to Us Ready to Set Us Free

Jeremiah 31:3 – God’s love is everlasting and unfailing.

Jesus reign would be characterized by h\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus taught true greatness comes not by exalting yourself but by s\_\_\_\_\_ others. Philippians 2:6-11

We see Jesus reaching out to h\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_ people.

Jesus wants to found. God wants to be k\_\_\_\_\_  
even if it involves a manger.

Action Steps: How will you show \_\_\_\_\_ this Christmas?

How will you serve others this week? \_\_\_\_\_

Seek Jesus wherever He may be and invite Him into your home.



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 1-7



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