

“In A Manger”

Luke 2:7-16

I love the Christmas song “*Away in a Manger*” (#148) written centuries ago by Martin Luther.

God made “a way” in a manger for us to be saved. Jesus is “the way.”

I. The PLACE of the manger (v. 7—“*And she brought her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger...*”)

➡ Not exactly the most comfortable place. It smelled like a barnyard... It was cold... It was hard (usually made of hew stone).

- Is this the place for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
- Is this the throne of the GOD OF THE UNIVERSE?
- Swaddling clothes instead of royal garments?
- Animals lowing instead of seraphim singing “Holy, holy, holy?”

A feeding trough was one of the most common, everyday, ordinary things you could find in the agricultural society this story is set in. There’s nothing ornate or special about a feeding trough. It didn’t have some kind of unique or romanticized purpose. It was just used for the run-of-the-mill, ordinary task of...well,...feeding sheep! It was very “common.”

The Bible says, “*The common people heard him gladly*” (Mark 12:37).

God has chosen the foolish things... weak things... the base things... to confound the things that are mighty (1 Cor. 1:26-28).

A. Place for Lambs / Sheep— When God entered the human area, He chose a manger in which to place His newborn LAMB (John 1:29).

A “sheep shed” — A “glory barn.”

B. Place for the hungry to feed.

1. The word “manger” comes from the French (meaning “to eat” or “to chew”). It was a trough carved out of wood or stone, constructed to hold food for animals. It was a feeder.

IV. The POINTING to the manger (vs. 11-12).

- A. I believe it is fitting that the first visitors who came to see Jesus in the manger were SHEPHERDS! They in charge of the care of sheep. They knew all about mangers!
- B. His lying in the manger was a “*sign*.” It was a “sign” because this was not the usual place you would find a baby. That was a dead give-away they had found the right baby.
- C. Jesus may be found in unusual places:
 1. Found at a well (John 4);
 2. Found up a tree (Zaacheus);
 3. Found in a chariot in Gaza (Acts 8);
 4. Found by the river side (Lydia-Acts 16)
 5. Found in a jail house (Acts 16);
 6. I found Him at the Nelson Hotel.
 7. D.L. Moody met Christ in a shoe store.
 8. Billy Sunday found Christ on a street corner in Chicago.
 9. He has been found in clay huts in China;
 10. Dr. Peter Ruckman found Him in a record room in a radio station.
 11. My Pastor, Dr. Herbert Noe found Him in a hospital bed reading a Gideon Bible;
 12. I seen people find Him in a car on the side of the road (hitch-hiker).

➡ Where were you when you found Jesus?

SUMMATION: What does a manger have in common with your heart?

1. Both are places God choses for His Son to enter.
2. Both are places unworthy of divine royalty. Stables and human hearts are Dirty, Dark and Defiled places (Jer.17:9; Isa.64:6; 1 Tim.1:15). No body cleaned it up before His arrival. Jesus meets us where we are!

3. Both are places God has chosen to reveal His Son. God wants to reveal His Son in you.
4. Both are places that have nothing to glory in except in the One that occupies them! It is *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

Your comments are welcomed. Please [CLICK HERE](#).