



In the Manger

Quest Book: Chapter 4

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

A. The Setup to the Manger Throne

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and places Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

1. The lack of room in the inn was not a mistake; it was an invitation.
2. God was not looking for a palace; He was looking for a place that was open.

Discipleship Tip: Our lives are often like that inn—crowded with worries, bills, and busyness. The first step in God’s woven plan is realizing that Christ doesn’t demand a polished palace. He is looking for a manger space—a humble, quiet corner of your soul where you stop trying to be full of yourself and start being empty for Him.

B. The Unexpected Woven Technique

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.’” Luke 7:8-14 (NIV)

1. The glory of the Lord did not shine on the Temple that night; it shone in the fields.
2. The glory of the Lord did not come on a palace throne; it came in a feeding trough.

Discipleship Tip: Having a manger in your heart means having a humbled, shepherd’s spirit. If your heart is a throne of pride, the message of Christmas might feel distant. But if your heart is a manger—vulnerable, honest, and perhaps a little bit "unclean"—then the Good News is addressed directly to you.

C. What do we do with the manger?

“When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:17-18; 20 (NIV)

1. Carry the manger with you wherever you go.
2. Be a place where the King resides.

Discipleship Tip: Tonight, as the candles are lit and the carols are sung, ask yourself: Is there room? Don’t worry if your "manger" feels small or imperfect. A manger was never meant to be fancy; it was simply meant to hold Jesus.

Bottom Line:

When we make our hearts a manger, we become the vessel for His love, His peace, and His presence in a dark world.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: IChooseJesus to 570-273-0088

Looking for your next step at CWC?

Welcome Party – 1st Sunday of Every Month

- If you are new or if you’ve been around a bit and are looking to build friendships with others, our Welcome Party is for you! ***Get to know others*** who are newer at CWC as well as our welcome team and our pastors in a relational environment. There will be light refreshments and the opportunity to hear about our small groups, baptism, and your next step of Growth Track. If you’re asking the question, “*How can I make friends here,*” then this is for you! No registration is required, you can just show up. Look for the signs on the first Sunday of the month.

Growth Track – 3-week class on Sunday Mornings or Wednesday Nights

- Growth Track exists to help you learn about the vision of CWC, the gifts God has given you, and how you can use them in specific opportunities to serve at CWC. You’ll learn amongst others of how to become a vital part of the ministries of the church so that we can share the light of Christ with our communities. If you miss a class, don’t worry! Growth Track runs every other month and we even have an online option you can participate in (though we recommend in-person if you can). You can see what classes are available by going to **bit.ly/cwcgrowthtrack**.

Membership Class – Once a quarter on Sundays after 2nd service

- Membership class is the last step of fully assimilating at CWC. Learn about our denomination, The Wesleyan Church and the bigger movement we are a part of across the world. This 3-hour class with the lead pastor provides you a place to **ask important questions about our beliefs as a church** and allows you to become eligible for our local board of administration. You also become eligible for denominational events like our district and general conferences. To sign up for our next class, let us know at the Hub or email: loretta.paulhamus@cwc.life