

## *Women & More*

### **The 'Son' Room**

November 7, 2013

The 'Son' is now glorified and at the Father's right hand and we need to prepare Him room in our hearts and lives. God's work of sanctifying us is a life-long process, and will happen in the 'room' we make for Him. Born in a manger "...because there was no room in the inn..." from the womb to the manger, and from there to the tomb, Jesus would occupy the small spaces.

◆The Womb Room: Matthew 1:18-22 *"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was **found to be with child through the Holy Spirit**.<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*<sup>20</sup>"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because **what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**.<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**'*

*<sup>22</sup>"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**—which means, **God with us.**"*

Divine grace had solicited Mary's cooperation before her conception, and Joseph's cooperation only after. How gracious, indeed, that God invites our cooperation in his plans! Learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph had decided to divorce her quietly before two witnesses. This action was permitted by the law, and would leave Joseph's law-abiding rightness and his compassion for Mary intact. It was only when Joseph had decided on this action that God intervened with a dream and his personal encouragement to Joseph: "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife," and his explanation of Divine participation. When the Holy Spirit came to Mary to conceive Jesus, the Two were together there with her—as was the Father.

The name to be given this Holy child would be *Jesus*, the Greek form of Joshua meaning 'the Lord is salvation' or 'the Lord saves', and referenced in Psalm 130:8—"He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins." Mary is told the name—*Jesus*—and Joseph the name and the reason, but Mary's Son is the one who brings the Lord's promised eschatological salvation. In verses 22-23, the angel of the Lord assures Joseph that 'everything' has happened to fulfill Scripture—what was written. And makes it very clear that Mary is the virgin spoken of and that Jesus is her 'Son'—Immanuel—God with us (ref: Isaiah 7:14).

The Jews expected Messiah to save them from their many enemies, from disease, disaster and all that would come against them, and perhaps purify them as a people. But they did not expect Him to give his own life to 'save them from their sins'—offenses against their God (ref: Matthew 20:28).

Oh to realize that Jesus' conception in the womb of this young girl by the Holy Spirit, with full oversight by the Father, was the opening act of the Divine 'plan' of redemption! May I dare say that there had been room in Mary's heart for God, first, and then there was cooperative room in her womb for his magnificent plan for the Man child—Jesus. Mary had given her heart, mind, soul and strength to her Lord, and she had found favor with Him!

◆The Birthing *Room*—manger: Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses three things: 1) the political situation (to explain why Jesus was born in Bethlehem), 2) that Bethlehem was the messianic claim's 'city of David', and 3) the very humble circumstances of Jesus' birth. *Expositors Bible Commentary*: "A mere Galilean peasant travels to Bethlehem ostensibly at the decree of the Roman emperor. But actually it is in fulfillment of the divine King's plan: *what must be fulfilled.*"

A massive census is scheduled, and it was the custom to return to one's place of birth for such a thing. We do not know how long Joseph was in Bethlehem, or why he'd chosen to take his very pregnant wife Mary with him. He had by now accepted her as his wife, as the angel of the Lord had encouraged him, but they had continued their betrothal until after Jesus' birth—they had had no union. Taking her to Bethlehem would not have been necessary. Maybe Joseph did not want to leave Mary alone because of the impending birth, or leave her alone in an environment still hostile toward her pregnancy. While we don't know Joseph's reasons, we can be absolutely sure that it was God's perfect will for Mary to go, because **Jesus would be born in Bethlehem of Judea!**

Luke 2:6-7 "*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 placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*" Commentators suggest that the word "inn" here probably means guest 'room'. We know that it was part of God's plan and fulfillment of Scripture that Jesus would be placed in a manger! We can't trust the 'why' of there being "no room", but we can trust our God!

◆The Upper *Room*: Mark 14:12-16 "*On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?' 13"So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14Say to the owner of the house he*

enters, “The Teacher asks: **Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?**” **15He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.**

**16**“The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.”

It was late Thursday afternoon—the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan—and there was no time to lose. The Passover meal had to be eaten between sundown and midnight within the walls of the city. Jesus gave Peter and John implicit instructions to look for a man carrying a jar of water, and he would be easily identified because women customarily carried jars of water—not men. They were to follow this man to a house where the owner had a guest room.

*Expositor's Bible Commentary:* “Jewish custom required that if a person had a room available, he must give it to any pilgrim who asked to stay in it for the Passover.” Jesus had obviously made prior preparations—just like he has made for us in the Father’s house. While there was, more often than not, “no room” for Jesus Himself, He made “room” for his followers! He not only “is the way,” He makes the way.

Mark 14:17-18 “When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. **18**While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, ‘I tell you the truth, **one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.**’” Hello, sit-down, first thing Jesus says: “One of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” And we know they all began to question if they were the betrayer. In the Middle East, to betray a friend after eating a meal with him was—then and still today—considered to be the very worst kind of treachery. Jesus had given three clues to the betrayer’s identity: 1) *One of the twelve*, 2) “one who is eating with me” in verse 18, and two verses later 3) “one who dips bread into the bowl with me.”

Why did Jesus begin the Passover meal—Lord’s Supper—with this announcement about a betrayal? Because his betrayer would be one who enjoyed a very close relationship with him and, yet, would commit treachery. While a divine purpose was being carried out—Isaiah 53—Jesus pronounced a “woe” on his betrayer, emphasizing Judas’ personal responsibility. Verse 21 says, “**The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.**”

After the meal, Jesus solemnly declared that this would be the last festal meal he would share with them till the dawn of the messianic kingdom. This meal not only consecrated him for his sacrificial death, but it also held the promise of victory and salvation. Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and 1 Corinthians 11 record the Lord’s Supper, with Luke and Paul adding Jesus’ command for

believers to continue to celebrate it until his return—in remembrance. Then Jesus walked with his disciples from the Upper Room to the Mount of Olives. Then traveled from Gethsemane's garden to Calvary and the borrowed tomb.

◆The *Tomb Room*: Matthew 27:57-61 “*As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.*”

Silence here—God is at work! Because of Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Jesus' body could not remain on the cross overnight. Six p.m. would mark the end of Friday and the Sabbath would begin. John 19:38-40 records that Joseph was assisted by Nicodemus, “*the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.*” That Jesus was actually buried became an integral part of the Gospel proclamation—

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4 “*...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*”

Temple guards—reporting to the priests—were posted at the tomb. The enemies of Jesus did not believe his promise to rise from the dead, but they were afraid of fraud. So guards were placed and the tomb was sealed with an official wax seal. At this point even the disciples did not believe that Jesus would rise again. Instead, they were weighed down with sorrow at their Lord's horrible death.

The women would wait till the Sabbath was over before they walked very far. But early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb. Matthew 28:2-6

*“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*5“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; he has risen, just as he said: Come and see the place where he lay.’”*

The tomb would not hold Jesus—nor would the wax seal or the temple guards. And the women received their commission to go “tell” the disciples that He had risen and that he would go before them into Galilee. And after 40 days with them on this earth in his resurrected body, Jesus gloriously ascended to the Father and sat down at His right hand in heaven—with many rooms. John 14:2 “*In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*” 1 Corinthians 2:9 “*...no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what **God has prepared for those who love him.**”*

Sanctify is to 'set apart', and sanctification is the process by which we are 'being set apart', and is not at all to be confused with—though Satan would love it—sanctimonious which means *hypocritically pious*. If we confuse God's sanctifying work in his children with being sanctimonious, then we would be guilty of judging others. Actions can be assessed against Scripture and judged unrighteous, but motives—known only to God, unless someone shares them with us—must not know our judgment. **When we don't know and can't know another person's heart, we will have to trust God's heart for them!**

◆The *Room* in our hearts: 1 Corinthians 3:16 “*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that **God's Spirit lives in you?**” Galatians 2:20 “*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*” Ephesians 3:16-17 “*That (God) may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**.*”*

We are to prepare Him room—to keep company with the Son! Henry van Dyke “We are in the quarry still and not complete and one day we will be placed in a building not made by human hands—we will be a living stone in a heavenly temple” (ref: Isaiah 54:1).

“Wouldn't it be lovely if a bug could always stay  
Warm inside its silk cocoon, protected all its days  
Alone in dark oblivion, no need to fly the skies  
Let's face it—God's rebellious world's no place for butterflies.

“Now God, He made these little bugs and placed within, His life.  
So growth, the natural evidence, brings strain and stress and strife;  
For as she grows the cozy case becomes a prison strong.  
The bug now knows she must break out; to stay a bug is wrong.

“At last the struggle over—the butterfly is free  
To fly God's earth upheld by Him in matchless symmetry.  
Cries watching man in God's lost world, “A miracle is this,  
From crumpled bug to butterfly”—God's metamorphosis!”

Jill Briscoe, *A Snake in My Garden*

This caterpillar-to-butterfly imagery pictures so well the miracle of spiritual growth which begins immediately after our 'new birth' through faith in Christ's redemptive work: our justification—just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned. Just as our justification before the Father is through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, so our *sanctification* is through Him—in his way, in his truth, and in his life!