

The King Who Was Born in a Barn

By *House to House Heart to Heart*

So it makes sense that by the time they arrived, the small hamlet of Bethlehem was overrun with people and all hotel rooms were taken. Under such conditions, people must have felt blessed if they could negotiate even a small space on the floor. We can hear Joseph being told, "All we have left is a space where the animals stay." Perhaps Joseph looked over at Mary at this point, and said, "We'll take it," without hesitation. No kind person said, "You can have my space. You need it more than I do." Imagine if one of David's daughters had been about to give birth. Would she have been sent out to the barn? Yet this daughter of David had no friend to accommodate her in distress. Nonetheless, it must have been a relief for Mary rest, finally, after her journey.

The Gospel accounts do not say if there were animals there, although in that society animals were never far away. Neither does it say whether the manger was in a stable, barn, or cave. It is likely that Jesus was born in a cattle stall. Imagine it:

- How did it smell?
- What sounds were filling Mary's ears as she had Jesus?
- How comfortable was it with no bed, couch, table, or chair?
- How private was it with all those visitors milling about?
- How sanitary was it with all the refuse and flies that normally are found in such a place?

To say the least, it was a disquieting place for a woman in childbirth. But Mary and Joseph made it work. Perhaps they hung a curtain over the doorway, and tethered their animal outside to block passage, thus gaining enough privacy for the birth. Ken Gire paints the picture:

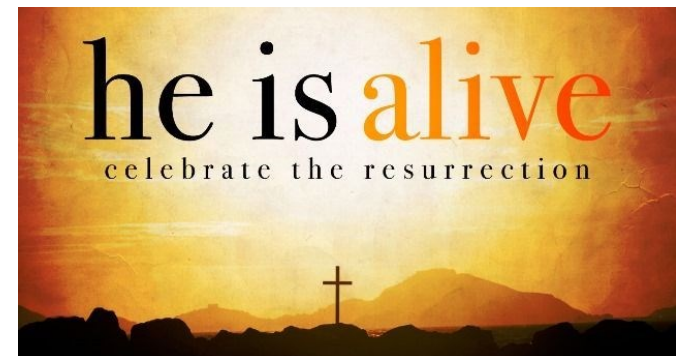
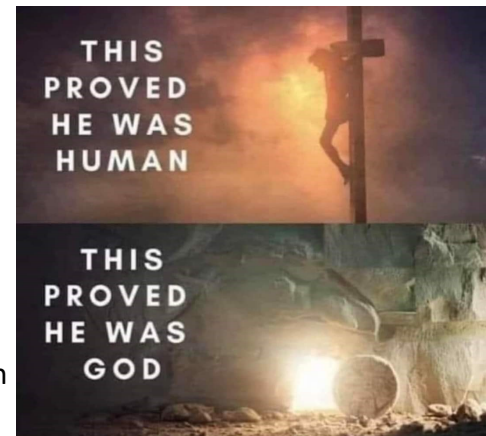
Thus Jesus was born without protocol and without pretension. Where you would have expected angels there were only flies. Where you would have expected heads of state, there were only donkeys, a few haltered cows, a nervous ball of sheep, a tethered camel, and a furtive scurry of curious barn mice.

Why would God orchestrate such a place of birth? Jesus' being born in a stable shows His humiliation ([Acts 8:33](#)). He laid aside all His glory, and took upon Himself the form of a servant ([Philippians 2:7](#)). He "humbled himself" ([Philippians 2:8](#)). Isaiah prophesied that He would be without form or comeliness, a root out of a dry ground and "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" ([Isaiah 53:2-3](#)).

•The manger and the cross are matching bookends to Jesus' earthly life. Would it have been fitting that a man who was to die naked on the cross be born in a palace? Would it have been appropriate that one to be buried in a

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the Beard family for the death of Dale Beard (Leon's cousin). His service was yesterday. He was a member of the Pine Ridge church.
- ◆ Sympathy also goes to the family and friends of Estel Robirds from Theodosia. His service was Friday.
- ◆ Nikki Smith, sister-in-law has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- ◆ Donna Shipley, sister of Leon Beard, has been diagnosed with bladder cancer.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Sue Hamblton, Barbara White, Larry Butler, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains.



borrowed tomb begin anywhere but a borrowed barn? An inauspicious start was fitting, for He who would wear a peasant's garb, associate with fishermen and tax collectors, and have common men as His disciples when He started His ministry. *(continued next week)*

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
3-29	Rene Blackburn	3-31	Dana & Marsha Crisp
3-29	Richard Blackburn	4-7	Elmo and Sue Hamblen
4-4	Nichole Lane	Birthdays	
4-6	Barbara James	4-14	Sailor Anderson

Vicki will be serving tacos and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes.

Jessica Smith will be taking family pictures after services in April for a new directory. Be sure to fill out and return the information sheet.

A huge thank you to all who helped make yesterday's Community Easter Egg Hunt a success!

Date	Event	Details
Fri-Sat-Sun April 12-14	Gospel Meeting Here	Devin Swindle, Speaker See flyer on bulletin board
April 14-17	Gospel Meeting Thayer	"Godly Habits" Speaker Scott Cain
Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	WE HOST!
Sat., June 1st	Vacation Bible School	Here

April Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Communion & Closing Prayer

Today	Don Luna	Larry Butler
4-7	John Abraham	R. J. Moyers
4-14	Mark Lane	D. E. Pleasant
4-21	David Stevens	Paul Wade
4-28	Don Luna	Don Reynolds

Song Leader: Titus Smith

Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp; Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

March 31, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, *The Gospel of Jesus: Death, Burial, Resurrection*

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#344, *Low in the Grave*; #346, *He Lives*

#324, *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?* Communion Service

#147, *I Stand Amazed*

Scripture Reading by Howard Wade, I Corinthians 15:1-4

Sermon and Invitation

#396, *No, Not One*

#470, *Victory in Jesus*

Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler	817-504-1604
Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355
Preacher	
Halbert Smith	417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us