



Bigbee Baptist Association

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Brother Brad's Box...

Hi Friends!

Perhaps you already know that the wise men, however many there may have been at the time, were firefighters by occupation. We are told that they came from "a far"! Oh, I know - that was lame. But, think with me about that one particular night so long ago when the Christ child arrived in this world.

According to the recorded story, some of the real first responders to the situation were the lowly shepherds who had been tending their flocks and minding their own business just a short time earlier. However, one must wonder if the innkeeper and perhaps his wife were among the very first visitors to the Holy Family. Maybe the innkeeper's wife heard the baby's cries and just had to go check on them.

The animals were gathered around, probably not all-glowing and respectful as so many nativity scenes portray them, but in their natural habitat – grazing, roaming about, and generally oblivious to their new stall-mates. Did the creatures even notice anything different taking place around them?

I have read a statement that said something like, "Each of us is an innkeeper, deciding what we must do with the Savior." I wonder what you are doing with Jesus this Christmas season? Are you so busy planning and shopping and eating and traveling and visiting that you forget what should be the real focus of this time of year?

Are we the innkeeper – tired, ready to finish up the business and call it a day, with no room left for anything or any One Who might interrupt our plans?

Are we a shepherd – simple and unobtrusive, but willing to travel great lengths to be where the Lord sends us?

Are we a donkey – a beast of burden, merely carrying our loads around all day long with no regard to the Savior being right with us every step of the way?

Are we a stable animal – be it a cow, goat, etc. that is so preoccupied with our own munching and lounging that we totally miss His presence so very near?

Are we a "wise" person – with much book knowledge or even Scriptural knowledge, but no knowledge of the true Savior and why He came to be among us?

Are we the innkeeper's wife – an unmentioned person, very obviously in the background, but perhaps curious enough to wonder about what's happening so very near?

Every Christmas, we are reminded to remember Who the season is all about. And we certainly should. However, I'd like to challenge us each to ask ourselves the question, "Who am I this Christmas?" Who am I? Where do I stand in my personal relationship with Jesus? Am I fulfilling my purpose in His plan for my life?

One of the most beautiful depictions of that first Christmas night that I have seen is a simple painting of a simple scene. Mary lounges, leaning back against the wall for support after a tiresome labor and delivery. The Baby is cradled, sleeping quietly in the cattle trough. And Joseph, the new father, sits silently beside them, no doubt pondering the new life and responsibilities that have been thrust upon them. These new parents may not have fully understood their role in God's new plan, but they understood enough to know they were called to be the main characters in the greatest story ever told.

Who are you this Christmas?

Praying yours is merry and bright and that you have a blessed and safe New Year.

--Brad



Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 7 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., BBA Office
- 27 Baptist Men's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Livingston First

FEBRUARY

- 4 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 25-26 State Evangelism Conference, Dawson Memorial, Birmingham

MARCH

- 3-10 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 4 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

APRIL

- 1 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., BBA Office
- 21 EASTER SUNDAY



BAPTIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 27

7:30 a.m.

Livingston First

Cost: Donations

Choir Festival and Evangelism Conference

Sunday, February 10

4:30 p.m.

Livingston First

Speaker will be Rev. Jim Harris



TIME CHANGE
"Spring Forward" on
March 10, 2019

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Brad and Muriel