

Making Room: A Christmas Shock Unveiled

Scripture used: [Luke 2:8-10 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon started us on a three-week-long new series: "Making Room." The series centers around the Lord's invitation to make room in our lives, and find clarity and focus. It is not meant for the Christmas season only, but to help shape and define our lives 365 days/year. In this first message of the series, the most important takeaway is that before we make room for God, He has already made room for us.

KEY POINTS

- Our Scripture is a familiar Christmas narrative: Jesus' family was traveling and they found "no room at the inn". The historical context is a mandatory census in the Roman Empire forcing people to be counted in their place of origin. Jesus' family is traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- Jesus' birth contains three scandalous points, which happened and are documented with great intent and purpose.
 - The first scandal - [Luke 2:5](#): Joseph and Mary are engaged, and she's expecting a child. People will wonder and gossip about who is the father of the child. Or wonder if the engaged couple was intimate before marriage. Either scenario will bring shame in a highly traditional and honor-bound culture.
 - The second scandal - [Luke 2:7](#): Jesus is announced as a king and savior, but He is a humble king, sleeping in the barn, sharing space with farm animals. Mary has wrapped Him in a blanket in the manger.
 - The third scandal - [Luke 2:8-10](#): The first people introduced to Jesus are the lowly shepherds. They are people with no status. They are unhoused, impoverished, nomadic drifters. They are truly "nobodies." The text speaks to them: "I bring you good news that will cause great joy to all." Despite (or because of) their low status, they have been written in the story, and are an integral part of the great unfolding.
- Pastor Hurmon worried about his low status and bad reputation when he was a child playing the role of an angel at church in Coushatta, LA. God makes room so that we can be in the same space as the shepherds. He offers endless love, mercy, and grace. [Luke 2:9](#) - the glory of the Lord is shared with those burdened by scandal and brokenness. Whatever challenge, self-definition, self-identification we assign to ourselves, the birth of Jesus is an irrefutable statement that God has made room for us.
 - He has made room In His thoughts for us: [Psalm 139:17-18 \(NLT\)](#).
 - He has made room in His heart for us - [Jeremiah 31:3](#)
 - He has made room for us In His plans - [Ephesians 1:5 \(NLT\)](#) - God adopts us and it gives Him great pleasure. The redemptive story of Christmas, with the sacrifice of Jesus, shows that God has planned Himself into our lives. Pastor Hurmon called us to believe it! God will meet us where we are; He will accept us; He will not leave unchanged. He has the final say.
- When the shepherds believed, they became angels (the literal meaning for angel is messenger). We should be angels to others, announcing the good news of God to them that He has made room for us all.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR:** Do you have margin in your life right now, or "room" for something additional? What do you tend to try to leave room for? If you don't have much room, how do you feel about that? If God wanted to do something new in your life right now, would He have room?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND:** Read [Luke 2:8-10 \(NIV\)](#). Reflect on the teaching from this message on how shepherds were transformed to angels (messengers). In what ways have you felt like a shepherd in this story (normally overlooked, perhaps flawed or unworthy)? What good news have you heard and received from God in your own life? In what ways has God made you a messenger of His good news? To whom is He sending you?
- 3) **DO:** Spend time reflecting on the ways that God has made room for you in His thoughts, His heart, and His plans. Look for opportunities to be a messenger of His good news this week! Pray about whom you might ask to NBCC's Christmas Celebration on December 22-24, and how you might serve as a part of our Christmas team! See you next Sunday!