A Stable!

12-20-20

Luke 2:7 (ESV)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Everything here points to poverty, obscurity, and rejection. One couldn't have much more of a meager beginning. With this beginning you couldn't have much prospect for the future. Mary, very much alone, wrapped baby Jesus herself and laid him in the manger. We embrace the nativity scene and marvel at Jesus's birth. In reality, Jesus' birth is totally bizarre. Yet, millions have been martyred because they would rather die than renounce Jesus. There is a lesson here. Understanding Jesus' birth helps us understand the work of God. This humble birth reveals the very nature and character of God. Why would the King, Ruler, and Creator of the universe be born in a stable?

1 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV)

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

God is not impressed with worldly wisdom or man's idea of wealth, prestige, or success. Therefore, to have man understand God and man's true position, God had man to knell before a baby in a manger. Through man's wisdom, man has created all kinds of religions and philosophies for life.

In God's wisdom, HE allowed man to exhaust himself with the best of man's wisdom to show the absolute futility of man's wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:21a (ESV)

For since, **in the wisdom of God**, the world did not know God through (human) wisdom, … …

A stable? What foolishness! The Cross? What foolishness! The wisdom of God showed that the world could not know God through man's wisdom. God has another way!

1 Corinthians 1:21b (ESV)

… It pleased God through **"the folly of what we preach"** to save those who believe.

It pleased God through the folly of what we preach, a stable, the Cross, to save those who would believe. We ask, "God, who would be so foolish to believe this message and why did you choose them?" Question: Who and Why?

1 Corinthians 1:27 (ESV)

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

- God chose us to shame the wise!

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
- God chose us to shame the strong!

1 Corinthians 1:28 (ESV)

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, **to bring to nothing things that are**.

- God chose us to override everything false in the world. Our belief counters false religion and false thinking.

Why is this God's method?

1 Corinthians 1:29 (ESV)

So that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Bottom line, this is not us! This is God! What do we have to offer? We have our story, the death and resurrection of Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and eternal life. Plus, we have the power of the Holy Spirit living in us. Paul clearly tells us that we should live in the demonstration of the spirit and power!

1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (ESV)

4 My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, **"but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,"**
5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Our faith rests in the power of God. In our weakness we are strong.

With Christ in us, the Holy Spirit in us, we have the fullness of God living in us! Therefore we are to live, "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"! With our weakness comes the power of God. Look what came with the foolishness of the Stable!

Luke 2:12–14 (ESV)

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

From horizon to horizon, all of God's angels came to the stable. The Stable was the point of God's power. Our weakness is God's avenue for HIS power. Merry Christmas, God will meet us at our stable.

Call upon the Holy Spirit in every situation. Listen very carefully to what this verse says!

1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV)

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.