

# sermon notes

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*Is there room for Christ at your Inn?*

**Innkeepers are driven by Busyness**

“I was seldom able to see an opportunity,  
until it ceased to be one.” M. Twain

Holiday Fatigue is fueled by **fear, guilt, and competition.**

**Innkeepers are blinded by Expectations**

“A wonderful gift may not be wrapped as you expect.” J. Huie

**Innkeepers are bound by their possessions**

“Give and it will be given to you.” Luke 6:38

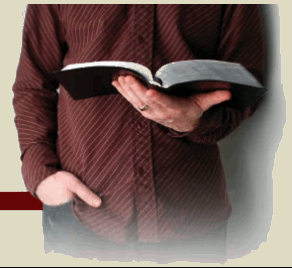
**Re-Think Christmas**

- (1) **Seize it** – Unlock the Opportunity
- (2) **Live it** – Faith opens us to the unexpected
- (3) **Share it** – Give and it will be given to you.

“Hell is the knowledge of opportunity lost; the place where the man I am  
comes face to face with the man I might have been.”

## BIBLE STUDY

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**Christ's Coming Brings Peace**

**MONDAY**

He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isa. 53:4-5)

**TUESDAY**

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

**WEDNESDAY**

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

**THURSDAY**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

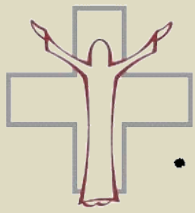
**FRIDAY**

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

**SATURDAY**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Col 3:15)

**SUNDAY** - You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. (Acts 10:36)



... an inspired life

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About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the Inn. Lk 2:1-7

“Time is swift, it races by; Opportunities are born and die... Still you wait and will not try - A bird with wings who dares not rise and fly.” A. A. Milne quotes

Our expectations are critical in giving us goals and standards for which we strive. Yet we can also be blinded by our expectations. I remember a TV show that featured a young autistic man who was thought to be completely lost in his own inner world. Then late one evening, his parents heard him playing the piano beautifully while singing. He had never had lessons, and his parents had no inclination he had musical ability. As it turns out, he was a savant. All along this musical ability was latent within him, but no one would have thought to look for it and nurture it. This was all because of misplaced expectations.

In [Isaiah 35](#) there is a wonderful vision of what happens when God's presence pervades a place. It says the “waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert” (verse 6). Like the autistic savant's musical ability, this is something that shouldn't be possible. It is a reminder to not let our expectations blind us to the unexpected in people, places, and things. Faith is not just about building our expectations. It is about opening us to the unexpected.

*"Opportunity knocks at the strangest times, It's not the time that matters But how you answer the door."* Steve Gray