



# Holy Disturbance - Making Room For Jesus

**“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).**

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God can, and very often works so imperceptibly quietly or silently that we hardly notice what is happening. But at other times His move (e.g. the fulfilment of prophecies) is associated with “Holy Disturbance” that requires personal adjustments if we are to benefit from it. The birth of Jesus was one of such moments.

The entire creation illustrates the fact that God is timely, organised and meticulously orderly. He also encourages orderliness through the laws He established in the universe. However, as scripture points out in Isaiah 55:8,9 **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”**; there are times when the manifestation of God’s orderly plan on time, may feel like a “Holy disturbance” in our perceptions. If we are not careful and flexible, it is very easy to miss God at such moments.

Moses pointed out to the Israelites that God’s leading on His people sometimes appear to them as an eagle stirring up her nest to dislodge the young ones, fluttering over the young ones as they panic, then spreading abroad her wings to catch them back into the nest before danger” (Deuteronomy 32:11). The eaglets only develop their skills to fly as they subject to these “disturbances” of their mother. In the same way we can only develop, mature and be useful in God’s kingdom as we allow “holy disturbances” in our lives. It is normal for human beings to love some quiet and peace. We must not forget that the cemetery is quiet, calm and peaceful because it is full of dead bodies. On the contrary, a hospital’s maternity ward where new lives (babies) are being delivered into the world is full of “disturbances” (screams, cries, etc.). The gates must lift up their heads for the King of Glory to come in (Psalms 24:7,9).


Let’s consider some of the “Holy Disturbance” moments associated with the birth of Christ as we explore what that meant to God, Christ, Mary, Joseph,

**“But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20,21).**



the cattle in the manger, the shepherds, the wise men, Herod, etc; as well as learn from them the necessary adjustments that God require from us all today if we are not going to miss God but rather move with Him in advancing His Kingdom on earth.

1. The love of God for the world (John 3:16) made God to send His only Son into the world to die for mankind. Physically separation from a loved one for 33 years is not an easy fit, let alone seeing that person go through the humiliation of being born in a manger and the sufferings at Calvary. Similarly, we must be prepared to sacrifice the precious and valuable if we are to make room for Christ in our lives (Luke 14:26,27,33).
2. Colossians 1:16,17 tells us that **“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist”**. Just imagine what it meant for Christ to disrobe himself of His glory and left the comfort of heaven to come and be born as a vulnerable baby, then live with the mankind he created and die for them. We all know of the costs, preparations, inconveniences and adjustments we have to make any time we want to travel far. As Christ allowed



Himself and His routines to be disturbed so as to save humanity, we must be willing to accept some “holy disturbances” to our lives, conveniences, schemes, plans, schedules, finance, comforts, careers, family in order to accommodate Jesus in our lives and obey Him (Matthew 4:18-22).

3. Consider Mary the mother of Jesus. As a young virgin she had her plans well carved out for marriage according to Jewish traditions; but all of a sudden angel Gabriel appeared to her with a startling news that disturbed her (Luke 1:26-38). As a Jew she knew the dangers of being pregnant out of wedlock. Her acceptance of the angelic message meant that she was prepared to change her marriage plans whatever the risks. To make room for Jesus in our lives, we must be prepared to accept risks, alter plans and change our minds.
4. Joseph the step father of Jesus on the other hand had his plans for marriage, career and family life. He probably would have discussed these with Mary during their courtship. All of a sudden his dreams seems to have been shattered on discovering that Mary was pregnant but not by him. As storms of thoughts on what others would say, or what to do swirled through his mind, God appeared to him in a dream with an unbelievable message (Matthew 1:20,21). It was acceptance of this ‘holy disturbance’ that made him to (1) swallow his pride / bury his reputation, (2) made a decision based on information he got in a dream (3) disciplined himself and delayed his marriage plans till after the birth of Jesus [Matthew 1:24,25] but at the same time (4) patiently accepted responsibility of taking care of a child that he was not the natural father. It takes personal adjustments to make room for Christ in our lives.
5. Even the cattle in the manger had to accept their share of ‘holy disturbances’. They had to forgo their feeding troughs, familiar residence and sleeping place so as to make room for Jesus. Our understanding and love for God will be manifested by the level of ‘holy disturbances’ that we are willing to accommodate for the sake of Jesus.
6. The same night that Jesus was born there were shepherds in the field keeping their flocks. They were probably organising to have a good night sleep or have already fallen asleep (normally in rotation) in preparation for the next day’s work. They had probably finalised their plans for their itinerary for the following day. But all of a sudden the angels descended and the glory of God shone around them. **“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to**

**all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”** (Luke 2:10-12). And what was the reaction of the shepherds when they heard these? **“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child”** (Luke 2:15-17). They abandoned their cattle, plans and programmes to make room for Jesus. Preaching the gospel requires adjustment to our programmes, career, plans, etc. God entrusted the good news of the birth of Christ to ordinary shepherds who would act on it rather than the nobles who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah, because they (shepherds) would value and sacrificially (abandon sleep / cattle) spread the good news. If you want to be part of God’s miracle / move in this end time, you must be ready to accept ‘holy disturbances’.

7. On seeing the star the wise men from the east travelled first to Jerusalem, and then to Bethlehem to worship Jesus with their treasures. To them distance, cost, perils on the way, etc was not a distraction from coming to Jesus and worshipping Him with their treasures (Matthew 2:1-12). Only the wise still seek and worship Jesus today with their treasures. Are you among them?
8. The truth of Jesus statement **“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad”** (Matthew 12:30) is amply illustrated in Herod who was not prepared to make room for Jesus, but rather in a futile attempt to eliminate Jesus, killed many innocent children (Matthew 2:16). You cannot sit on the fence when it comes to your attitude towards Jesus. You are either for or against Him. Which side are you?