



# Where Is Jesus?

This message poses a pertinent question, the answer of which can only be demonstrated in personal lives. It is based on two Bible accounts by Matthew and Luke.

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary



his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1-11).

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 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. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 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” (Luke 2:8-16).

- Note that:
1. Matthew gave account of wise men from the east, while Luke referred to shepherds in the same country.
  2. The wise men in Matthew’s account saw a star, while the shepherds in Luke’s account saw angels.





 **3. The wise men brought gifts, but there is no mention of gifts from the shepherds.**

 **4. Both the wise men and the shepherds found Jesus in Bethlehem, although the story suggests that the wise men found Him in the house, whereas Luke added additional detail that the babe was lying in a manger. Some think that this implies that the baby may have been moved from the manger into the house, but it is equally possible that the stable housing the manger was part of a house. Luke 2:7 explains - “**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.**”**

 **5. In view of the differences, it is not clear whether these refer to the same group of people and country or not.**

 **However we learn from these two accounts that:**

-  **1. God still speaks to people till today.**
-  **2. Those who seek Jesus for the right reason finds Him.**
-  **3. Contrary to human expectation, baby Jesus was not in the King’s Palace.**
-  **4. The star guided the wise men only when they were following its guidance and disappeared when they followed their own minds / wisdom into Herod’s house.**
-  **5. Baby Jesus was not in an inn, but in a manger (because there was no room in the inn).**

 **If the assumption that the manger was in a stable that was part of the inn house, then we may be able to draw some analogy with similar houses which may comprise of:**

-  **1. Living room**



-  **2. Master bedroom**

-  **3. Other bedrooms (e.g. children, visitors, etc)**

-  **4. Toilet, bathroom, kitchen**

-  **5. Store room (including garden shed, garage, etc)**

-  **6. Garden**

-  **7. Animal room – i.e. a stable (with a manger)**

 **In a typical house there may be different access rights to parents, children, visitors, strangers etc. Every room may have different allocations of:**

-  • budget, time (e.g. for decoration, leisure),
-  • function (i.e. purpose or designation)
-  • priority / values, etc

 **This analogy can be extended to make the house represent human life, and the rooms, the various compartments in life, (based on these scriptures):**

-  • **“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27)**

-  • **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).**





**For some, their lives are like that of the rich young ruler**

“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that



**hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first” (Matthew 19:16-30). For this young ruler, his life:**

- 1. Was religiously impressive**
- 2. Was knowledgeable about scriptural laws and regulations.**
- 3. Was compliant to the letter of the laws (I have kept all these)**
- 4. Was full of wealth, plans and priorities**
- 5. Allowed Jesus to access rooms relating to the letters of the laws and regulations but not into the room housing his wealth and possessions. When Jesus attempted to gain access to these other rooms, he slammed the door and shut Him out for fear that Jesus might interfere with his wealth, finances, programmes, life or convenience, thereby making him lose control. This inevitably forced Jesus into the manger room!**

**Note that Jesus had the same conditions and standards for making heaven for this young ruler as He had for the disciples, and He was not prepared to lower it for anyone.**

**In your own life, the rooms may consist of your:**

- 1. Time (recall that time is money, and time management is life management – so this includes the way you manage your life and money).**
- 2. Talents (e.g. skills and abilities),**
- 3. Treasures (e.g. finance, income, possessions, etc),**
- 4. Plans (including education, career and life aspirations)**





 **5. Programmes (e.g. routines, activities, events, etc)** 

 **6. Preferences (e.g. choices, likes and dislikes)** 

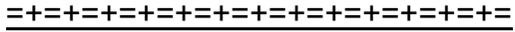
 **7. Priorities (e.g. values, vanities), etc.** 

 **One of these rooms houses a manger! Examine your life:** 

 • **If Jesus visited your house today, where would He find room to stay? (i.e. Where is Jesus allowed access to in the house of your life - living room, engine room, bedroom or manger?)** 

 • **If the shepherds / wise men came to the Bethlehem of your home today, looking for Jesus, where would they find Him – in the house proper or in the manger?** 

 **Jesus said “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). How is that with respect to the door of the house of your life? Have you yet opened the door to Him? If yes, in which room of your life is He allowed in? I hope not in the manger!** 



 Your spiritual welfare is our concern. For further help, please contact: 

 **VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY** 

 **Cardigan Centre, 145-149 Cardigan Road,** 

 **Burley, Leeds LS6 1LJ.** 

 **Worship Services: 10.00 a.m. Every Sunday** 

 Website [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org) 

 Email: [webmaster@victoriouschristianministry.org](mailto:webmaster@victoriouschristianministry.org) 

