

# Somebody Got There First

Huh?

How many reindeer does Santa Have?

10 (olive)

How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

[Fleece Navidad!]

Why is Christmas just like a day at the office ?

[You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.]

Hmmm...

Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of God to man—his Son; and the gift of man to God—when we first give ourselves to God.

Vance Havner

Luke 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christmas tree story ... corner tree ... cut it in half

Picture of the Inn keeper rejecting Mary and Joseph

kataluma; from G2647 (in the sense of to lodge); a lodging place:—guest room (2), inn (1).

No room for them in the guest room

pandocheion; from G3830; an inn:—inn (1).

pandocheion pan-dokk-i'-on: all-receptive, i.e. a public lodging-place (caravanserai or khan) -- inn.

Luke 10:34 Good Samaritan taking the stranger to an inn

Imagine if you will Joseph arriving at a house of his relatives and being greeted at the door by judgment instead of hospitality.

This can't be something holy since it doesn't match with my expectations.

Mary and Joseph couldn't have been married long enough for Mary to be this pregnant.

They missed the miracle because somebody got there first.

# Somebody Got There First

How many times does God show up in our life, but we miss Him because He doesn't come in the form we expected?

I remember when we were still trying to get pregnant and we had lost our second child, thinking, "Why does so-and-so deserve to have a child, but we don't?" "Why is God punishing us?"

There is a work in both of you that I'm preparing you for. My grace is sufficient for you.

Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment

Everyone in this room will die to this life.

For Paul Cousins' Father, it was this past Friday.  
For Chris Scott's Mother, it was last night around 11:10.

Every one of us shares a commonality that is universal for all of mankind. Time. It moves on at a fixed pace for all of us. None of use can save it. None of us will have any left at the end of our lives.

We can only make use of it. There are 24 hours in any given day. This translates to 1440 minutes or 86400. The average night's sleep is 7 hours, that leaves us with 17 hours, or 1020 minutes or 61,200 seconds each day on average for us to either live life, or have it lived for us.

Most of you in here have a full time job where you work on average between 8 and 10 hours per day (we'll say 9).

That leaves 8 hours.

Wait! We live in Hampton Roads, so take away an hour a day to wait in traffic.

That leaves 7 hours.

Wait! We all live in houses where cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc needs to be done.

That leaves 6 hours  
Wait!

For us our kids are involved in extracurricular activities

That leaves 5 hours

We have to eat 3 times a day

# Somebody Got There First

4 hours

Personal hygiene in the morning and at night, with bathroom breaks, coffee breaks, exercise, etc.

3 hours

All of us need down time after a long day

2 hours

We have to have time for relationships, camaraderie, fellowship with family and friends

1 hour

A lot of us are still going to school or studying towards something that requires on average an hour a day.

0 hours

No room in the guest room. Sorry Jesus, someone beat you there first.

You see if we're too lazy like our family was to get a tree for Christmas, somebody will get there first.

If we're too judgmental and prideful like Joseph's relatives were to him, somebody will get there first

If we're too busy like most of us are right now, somebody will get there first.

The problem is, the somebody that gets there first HAS to be Jesus and the only way that will happen is when we put him first.

Man if Jesus isn't first in our life, when life happens like it has to Paul and Ann and Chris we're sunk!

How do we make Jesus first?