

*"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 2:7no2 KJV*



*"And all went to be taxed."* How often has the hustle and overcrowding of our lives taxed us to where we have relegated the Son of God to the stables of our soul? Though filled with clean hay, the manger is still in the stable. Swaddling was a cheap cloth most often used for wrapping corpses for burial. We wrap our faith in the finest death clothes we possess, but fail to realize, Truth would clothe us with the shining robes of God's own Righteousness! We leave no place for the Almighty Jehovah in our hearts. He is housed with the lesser desires of our thoughts and becomes part of our daily routine and then forgotten as we move into our day. *"Meditate therein DAY AND NIGHT."* He is given no more importance than the maintenance of a bovine food supply. We look at overweight people and it is immediately obvious what their passion is. Shouldn't it be the same for believers? How many times have you met a stranger and immediately sensed that they love God? God isn't our delight anymore. He's not "fun." Existence is nothing more than a dull drudgery unless we provide our finest accommodations for the Master. As long as He is in the "stable" of our hearts, we will never know the Joy of His company or possess the Pearls of Wisdom hidden among His Words. Our blind lameness will forever diminish our capacity to *"run and not faint,"* or see the Light of His countenance. We must do as Mary; sit at His feet and anoint them with the tears that flow from our broken *"alabaster boxes."* Mary chose *"the better part."* Martha was *"cumbered about much serving."* She didn't realize that she needed His care more than He needed hers. How often have we substituted duty for worship? Service is done with the hands, but worship is done with the heart. If God has your heart, your hands will follow. Worship must precede service like the horse before cart. Nothing gets to market as long as we are pulling. Some of us may not be pulling the other way, but we are not riding, either. Constantly worship *"in spirit and in Truth,"* and it will surprise you what you can accomplish for the Lord. Get on the wagon of obedience and ride. *"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ. For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* We need to enjoy the ride while holding a lively conversation with the Wagon Master. Trust Him. He knows the Way. Riding with Jesus will melt time into a mist. Instead of praying for strength to walk, just climb on and ride.

Watching from the stable door,  
The Master wants to give us more,  
If we but think of Him a chore,  
We'll never truly Him adore. –CGP

Our hearts/minds/souls must constantly be a quiet garden apart from the taxing bustle of life where we sit at the Master's feet and learn of Him and find *"rest unto our souls,"* but it will not happen unless we hide His *"Word in our hearts."* God has to seek for true worshippers. Has He found you?

*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the TRUE WORSHIPPERS shall worship the Father in spirit and in Truth: for the Father SEEKETH such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth." John 4:23-24 KJV*