

Are you willing to be an imperfect manger for whatever God wants to be born through you?

We all love the image of Bethlehem and the stable and the manger but the question for anyone of us at Christmas is: Are we willing to let God use us to be his Christmas surprise for someone near us?

My brother Andy helped me understand this reality for Mary and Joseph. They really didn't know what it meant for them to be the parents of the Messiah. All they knew was that they were going to the city of David, Bethlehem, which was the town of the prophecy which announced the coming Messiah.

[2] But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

As we think of the Christmas Carol "Away in a Manger," we need to realize that we also are that birthing place for something that God wants to create through us. And just like with Mary we also are pregnant with a gift that God wants to give to the world where we live. But this gift is also hidden in each of us. And only God can reveal it at the right time.



You have been chosen for this. You may feel insignificant for such a gift to come through you, but then look at Bethlehem, it was "too little to be among the clans of Judah." But God always takes what is nothing to make something.

So the final question is are you willing to be willing to let God create a gift of life through you? Here is the verse from Sunday.

All these things my hand has made, so all these things are mine, says the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit who trembles at my word.
(Isaiah 66:2)

You are the one to whom our Lord is looking. You get to bulge with the God-given life that will bring a blessing to your Bethlehem, wherever that may be.