

Christmas Carols: Away in a Manger

Micah 5:2 ❖ Luke 2:1-7

“Sleep, sleep, sleep, ’tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, ’tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.”
 (“Still, Still, Still,” Austrian Carol)

Cribs and Lullabies

As new grandparents, my wife Rene and I are enjoying having a _____ in our home again. We kept the _____ our sons slept in when they were young. It had been over 20 years since it had been used, so I wiped off the _____, raised the spring _____ and put in the new _____ Rene bought. When I get to rock and _____ my two young grandsons to sleep and gently lay them in that _____, memories come flooding back.

What must _____ have been thinking when he led his _____ wife into a _____ in Bethlehem, instead of a room in an inn, a _____ instead of a room in their home in Nazareth?

What must it have been like for _____ when he rocked and _____ the newborn _____ to sleep and gently laid Him in a _____ instead of a cradle or a bed beside his mother?

What must have been going through _____ mind as he gathered fresh _____ instead of finding a blanket before laying baby _____ in a feeding _____ for animals, instead of a cradle?

Tonight let’s reflect on the critical role _____ played in Jesus’ life.

What We Know About Jesus’ Earthly Father

1) Joseph was “a _____ man” (Matthew 1:19), who _____ his faith. He took his family to the _____ in Jerusalem (Luke 2:21-38, 41-50) and to the _____ in Nazareth (Luke 4:16).

2) Joseph was a _____ man. (Matthew 1:18-19 and Luke 2:7)

3) Joseph knew Jesus was actually _____ Son and would be the _____ of God’s people. (Matthew 1:20-23)

4) Joseph _____ in something that had _____ happened before and has _____ happened since. (Matthew 1:20-23)

5) Joseph _____ God’s command to make Mary his _____, to have no _____ with her until her Son was born and to give Him the name _____. (Matthew 1:24-25)

6) Joseph _____ the laws of the land by going to Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) to be registered (Luke 2:1-5), but when an _____ told him an _____ ruler was going to break the law and _____ Jesus, Joseph _____ his family by taking them to Egypt. (Mt 2:13-18)

7) Joseph was a good _____ and taught Jesus a _____. (Mt 13:55)

The Carol

Legend has it that the words _____ the music were written by the Protestant Reformer Martin _____ almost _____ years ago for his youngest _____ one Christmas _____. Verses one and two were first put into _____ in an 1885 children’s book published by German _____ in Pennsylvania. A third verse, written by _____ pastor John Thomas McFarland, first appeared in an 1892 songbook.

V. 1. “Away in a _____, no _____ for a bed,
The little _____ Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The _____ in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the _____.”

V. 2. “The _____ are lowing, the Baby _____,
But little Lord Jesus no _____ He makes.
I _____ Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my _____ till morning is nigh.”

V. 3. “Be _____ me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me _____ and _____ me, I pray.
Bless all the dear _____ in Thy _____ care,
And _____ us for heaven to live _____ Thee there.”

Takeaway

Let’s reflect on _____ role in Jesus’ life.

Adults, let’s also reflect on _____ role in the lives of the children we love. *Children*, think about the faithful _____ in your life.

Let’s _____ sing the _____, “Away in a Manger” ...

