



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: No Vacancy

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 12/7/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: No Room at the Inn

Devotional: Picture this: you're exhausted after a long journey, your wife is about to give birth, and every door you knock on closes in your face. "No vacancy" signs seem to mock you at every turn. This was Joseph and Mary's reality as they searched desperately for shelter in Bethlehem. After traveling 90 grueling miles, they faced rejection after rejection. We've all experienced that sinking feeling when doors close and options run out. Maybe you've felt the sting of rejection in relationships, job applications, or social circles. The panic that sets in when you're running out of choices is all too familiar. But here's what's remarkable about this story - what seemed like a series of unfortunate events was actually God's perfect plan unfolding. The closed doors weren't obstacles; they were divine appointments leading to the exact place where prophecy would be fulfilled. Sometimes our greatest disappointments are redirections toward God's greater purposes. When you face your next "no vacancy" moment, remember that God may be orchestrating something beautiful behind the scenes. The rejection you're experiencing today might be positioning you for the breakthrough you need tomorrow.

Bible Verse: 'And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.' - Luke 2:7

Reflection Question: When you face rejection or closed doors, do you see them as obstacles or potential redirections from God toward His better plan for your life?

Quote: And so when you're traveling and you get into a place where you're ready to stop for the day or the night, whatever the case might be, and you find no vacancy everywhere you go, it's frustrating. It kind of puts you in a panic mode.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust Your perfect timing even when doors close and I feel rejected. Give me faith to believe that You're working behind the scenes, orchestrating my circumstances for Your glory and my good. Amen.

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Day 2: Born in Humility

Devotional: The King of the universe could have chosen any entrance into our world. Golden palaces, royal fanfare, or angelic escorts would have seemed appropriate. Instead, He chose a stable - a place reserved for animals, not royalty. This wasn't an accident or divine oversight; it was an intentional demonstration of humility from His very first breath. Jesus didn't just teach about humility; He embodied it from birth to death. His humble beginning in a manger was the first chapter of a life that would consistently choose the lowly path. He walked among tax collectors and sinners, washed His disciples' feet, and ultimately died a criminal's death. This radical humility wasn't weakness - it was strength under control. It was love choosing to descend rather than demanding others ascend. When we struggle with pride or feel entitled to better treatment, we can look to the manger and remember that our Savior chose the humble path. His example challenges us to embrace humility not as a burden, but as a beautiful way to reflect His character. True greatness isn't found in demanding the best seat at the table, but in willingly taking the lowest place and serving others with joy.

Bible Verse: 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.' - Philippians 2:6-8

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life is God calling you to embrace humility rather than demanding recognition or better treatment?

Quote: Because Christ was born in a manger to show his humiliation, to show when he said he is humble. He meant it from his very beginning, from the first breath he took here in our form, in the flesh. It was a humble beginning.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for choosing humility over glory when You came to earth. Help me follow Your example by putting others before myself and serving with a humble heart. Transform my pride into genuine love for others. Amen.

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Day 3: He Knows Your Rejection

Devotional: Rejection cuts deep. Whether it's being passed over for a promotion, excluded from a social group, or feeling unwanted in relationships, the pain of rejection can leave lasting wounds. But here's a truth that can transform how we process these painful experiences: Jesus knows exactly what rejection feels like. From His very birth, He experienced the sting of being unwanted. No room at the inn was just the beginning. Throughout His life, He faced rejection from religious leaders, His own hometown, and even His closest friends. He was misunderstood, criticized, and ultimately crucified by the very people He came to save. When you feel the sharp pain of rejection, you're not alone in that experience. The Son of God walked that difficult path before you. He understands the confusion, the hurt, and the questions that flood your mind. This isn't just theological comfort - it's personal empathy from someone who has been exactly where you are. His rejection wasn't meaningless suffering; it was purposeful love that opened the door for your acceptance. Because He was rejected, you can be received. Because He was cast out, you can be welcomed in. Your rejection doesn't define your worth - His acceptance does.

Bible Verse: 'He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.' - John 1:11

Reflection Question: How does knowing that Jesus personally experienced rejection change the way you process and heal from your own experiences of being rejected or overlooked?

Quote: So whenever you experience that emotion of being rejected, remember Our Savior knows what it's all about.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for understanding the pain of rejection. When I feel unwanted or overlooked, remind me that You experienced the same hurt and that Your love for me never wavers. Help me find my identity in Your acceptance, not in others' approval. Amen.

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Day 4: For the Outcasts

Devotional: Society has always had its outcasts - those deemed unworthy, forgotten, or too broken to matter. In Jesus' time, it was tax collectors, prostitutes, and lepers. Today, it might be the homeless person on the street corner, the struggling single parent, or the person battling addiction. But here's the beautiful truth: Jesus came specifically for these people. His birth in a stable wasn't just about humility; it was a declaration that He identifies with those society overlooks. He didn't come for the comfortable or the self-sufficient. He came for the desperate, the broken, and the forgotten. Maybe you feel like an outcast yourself. Perhaps you've made mistakes that make you feel unworthy of God's love. Maybe you're carrying shame that whispers you're too damaged for redemption. If that's you, the manger has a special message: Jesus came for you. His love isn't reserved for the perfect or the put-together. It's extended to anyone who recognizes their need for a Savior. The same Jesus who was born among animals and laid in a feeding trough extends His arms wide to embrace every person society has written off. You're not too far gone, too broken, or too forgotten. You're exactly who He came to save.

Bible Verse: 'For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.' - Luke 19:10

Reflection Question: Who are the 'outcasts' in your community that God might be calling you to reach out to with His love and acceptance?

Quote: Jesus came for the outcasts. He came for those the world overlooks. Amen. We pray that that is a mission of our church, that our eyes are open to those that everybody else is overlooking.

Prayer: Father, thank You for sending Jesus to seek and save the lost, including me. Open my eyes to see those around me who feel forgotten or overlooked. Give me courage to extend Your love to those society has written off. Amen.

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Day 5: Making Room in Your Heart

Devotional: The innkeeper's "no vacancy" sign has echoed through history, but the most important question isn't about Bethlehem's lodging shortage 2,000 years ago. It's about the vacancy sign hanging on your heart today. In our fast-paced world, even good activities can crowd out space for the King of Kings. Work demands, family obligations, social media, entertainment, and countless other pursuits compete for the room in our hearts that belongs to Jesus. It's possible to be so busy doing good things that we miss the best thing - intimate relationship with our Savior. The tragedy isn't that we're filling our lives with evil, but that we're filling them with everything except what matters most. Jesus, who understands rejection and chose humility, who came for the outcasts and the overlooked, is still knocking on the door of hearts today. He's not demanding entrance with force; He's waiting for an invitation. The question that matters most this Christmas season isn't whether there was room at the inn, but whether there's room in your inn - the inn of your heart. What needs to be cleared out to make space for Him? What activities, worries, or pursuits have taken up residence where the Prince of Peace should dwell? He's standing at the door, not as a demanding king, but as a humble servant who wants to transform your life with His presence.

Bible Verse: 'But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.' - Galatians 4:4

Reflection Question: What specific activities, worries, or pursuits do you need to clear out of your heart to make more room for Jesus in your daily life?

Quote: Do we have room for Jesus in our heart? Have we allowed media? Are we allowed Facebook? Or allowed. Just some activity doesn't mean it has to be bad, but something to fill our heart and mind.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I don't want to be too busy for You. Help me examine my heart and clear out anything that's taking up space that belongs to You. Come and dwell richly in my life. I make room for You today. Amen.

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