

No Detour from Calvary

You would think that if God so rules the world as to use an empire-wide census to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, he surely could have seen to it that a room was available in the inn.

Yes, he could have. He absolutely could have! And Jesus *could* have been born into a wealthy family. He *could* have turned stone into bread in the wilderness. He *could* have called ten thousand angels to his aid in Gethsemane. He *could* have come down from the cross and saved himself. The question is not what God *could* do, but what he *willed* to do.

God's will was that though Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor. The "No Vacancy" signs over all the motels in Bethlehem were *for your sake*. "For *your sake* he became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

God rules all things—even hotel capacities and available Airbnbs—for the sake of his children. The Calvary road

begins with a “No Vacancy” sign in Bethlehem and ends with the spitting and scoffing of the cross in Jerusalem.

And we must not forget that Jesus said: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross” (Luke 9:23).

We join him on the Calvary road and hear him say, “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20).

To the one who calls out enthusiastically, “I will follow you wherever you go,” Jesus responds, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:57–58).

Yes, God could have seen to it that Jesus have a room at his birth. But that would have been a detour off the Calvary road.