

Luke 2: 1-7
"In Jesus All Families Are Holy"

Let's pray:

May the Words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to your sight, our Lord and redeemer. May your Holy Spirit guide us always to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. In his name we ask you. Amen.

What is the purpose of *Las Posadas*? Our Latin culture focuses more on the family of Joseph and Mary. In Latin America Joseph and Mary are known as "The Holy Family" because they were very good people but also poor. The church together with the people have made them "saints."

Latinos identify a lot with the Holy Family because of their poverty. But the story we have in the Word of God is not directed only to Latinos; it is directed to all families around the world. The Bible uses the term "all nations." This story did not begin with Joseph and Mary. It goes further back, further back than King David, further back than Abraham and Sarah, further back than Noah. It started from the beginning where Adam and Eve fell into sin and disobeyed God. They couldn't save themselves so God gave them the promise that He would send a Savior to save all the families on earth.

God was always preparing people before He fulfilled any promise. But people did not always prepare themselves to receive what He had promised. In the times before Jesus was born, we can see what people's lives were like. Most of them were always more concerned about their own well-being; they did not care about others. They were completely blind to the point that they couldn't see people's needs. For example, people who don't have something to eat, or drink or even those who don't have a place to sleep. I think they are like us! Don't you think?

People in those days didn't welcome foreigners, especially if they were strangers. For example, the innkeepers didn't want to help Joseph and Mary's family.

Joseph and Mary needed a place to rest, a place where their baby could be born. Everyone was so busy with their own business that they couldn't see the great need for Jesus who was coming to be born and live like them and us in this world. Maybe you might say, "If only I had been there in Bethlehem, I would never have treated Jesus so badly!" And the truth is that even I myself would say exactly the same thing, but this is a lie. Just like them, you and I are human beings who care more about ourselves or our own family. That is our sinful nature.

Do we want to treat Jesus well? If your answer is yes, then let's open our eyes and look around us. Jesus comes to us in the people we see every day. How do we

treat them? Tell me if it's not true. We are always more comfortable with the people we know, people who look like us. On the other hand, we don't want to see or speak to strangers or people who don't look like us, or have different customs, or who are poorer than we are. It is like we love to lock ourselves in a bubble. Only the people we know and love are allowed inside. Those we don't like or don't care about can't come in. Everybody looks out for themselves, right? I need to look out for my own family. Everybody else can just move on.

The sad truth is that families around the world are not perfect. We are all sinners! All of us need a Savior. In *La Posada* tradition, we remember that God uses what is not holy or perfect (the family) and makes it holy and perfect.

Just as the family of Joseph and Mary was not perfect, God Himself chose them to fulfill His promise. God chose to be born into a simple family, a family that has nothing more special than our own families. God came to sanctify the family as Christ came to live with them in this fallen world. Christ is God who came to live as one of us. God in Christ knows and understands all the things we go through because He himself lived as one of us in this world.

In *Las Posadas* we should not focus on the "holy family" rather we should focus on God. Focus on Jesus, who left everything in heaven to come to save His creation. God in His humility was born in a very, very humble way. At least some of us were born in a hospital or in our own home, but the Son of God had no place to be born, He had to be born in a stable where the animals lived. Can you imagine that?

That little baby who was born in humility, grew up and lived with this family. The story does not end there, but this baby grew up and became a man, who sacrificed himself to pay for all the sins of the world, putting them on the Cross to forgive us - a forgiveness that was very expensive. Jesus did not turn away from suffering in our place. By His triumph over sin, death, and the devil, He has made us holy in the presence of Almighty God. Thanks to Jesus we will be able to see God face to face. When you remember the baby who was born in humility, remember that God is the one who came to save you and your family. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you believe this truth and share it with all the people that God puts in your way. Your family is holy only because of Jesus Christ. Amen.