

# The Manger

Luke 2:7

Solid Rock Church

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# The First Act of Self-Emptying

## **Philippians 2:6–8**

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

# The First Act of Self-Emptying

## **2 Corinthians 8:9**

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.**

# The First Act of Self-Emptying

## **Hebrews 2:17**

**Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

# Trial Turned to Joy

**James 1:2–4**

**Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

# Trial Turned to Joy

## Mary's Trials:

- Young woman, far from home
- Grueling journey
- Labor in a stable
- No midwife, no family
- Baby in a feeding trough

# Trial Turned to Joy

## Joseph's Trials:

- Heartbreak and Scandal
- Chose mercy (Matt 1:19)
- Exhausting Journey
- Doors slammed shut
- Helped deliver the Child in a stable

# Pure Religion lived Perfectly

## **James 1:27**

**Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**



# Pure Religion lived Perfectly

**James 2:15–16**

**If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?**

# Pure Religion lived Perfectly

## Family's Distress:

- Mary – labor in a stable
- Joseph – no place for his family
- The Baby – laid in a feeding trough

# Pure Religion lived Perfectly

## **Galatians 4:4–5**

**But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

# What can we do?

1. Empty Yourself
2. Count the chaos Joy
3. Show Mercy