*From the Pastor’s desk:*

**A SUITE OR A STABLE?**

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” **(Luke 2:7 ESV)**

It was her first child to cuddle. She would have preferred a decent and an honourable cradle for Him. She would have wanted to look back to that day and be proud of the environment she had her first baby. But sometimes, things don’t go the way we plan. She was heavily pregnant and would have avoided the journey, but the order had gone forth. Census must take place. People must be numbered at Bethlehem.

Probably, herself and her fiancé would not mind paying the price to secure the choicest place, especially for the dignity and convenience of the inexperienced mother-to-be. But no more room. The innkeeper did well. He offered all he had – a small stable where the animals were kept. Not a celebrated one though, they took the only option they could get. At least, a sort of dignity was procured for the novice Mary.

At night, Mary announced that the time had come. The baby was about to arrive. Any midwife around? There were God’s creatures, but not skilled in such task. All they offered was bleating or neighing or bellowing, added to the repulsive and pungent odour that already governed the atmosphere.

In spite of the prevailing odds, the Son of God entered the world in a remote setting. His first cradle was an animal feeding trough. But it wasn’t an accident, the King of Glory, our Saviour, epitomises humility.

The writer of ‘Back to the Bible’ states that, “Pride is the tendency of humanity. Pride promotes one’s own interests, even if it hurts others. Pride seeks promotion at the expense of principles and people. Pride demands attention and accolades. Pride strives for position, power, and prestige. Pride is always right and has to have the last word. Pride shows off possessions and relishes superiority. Pride seeks to be served.”

At this very season, the message cannot be louder. Jesus, our perfect example chose the opposite of pride. Being born in a manger was not an accident, but a profound statement to all that, to please Him, we must choose humility. Ask yourself, what is your pursuit, a suite, or a stable?