

COMMON PEOPLE, COMMON PLACES, UNCOMMON GOD

(2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16)

Intro: We have an uncommon God.
-God who chooses to live:
#In the most common places.
#Among the most common people.

If:
-People.
#Live in houses.
-Kings.
#Live in palaces.
-Gods.
#Out to live in temples.
*Common gods would.

But our God (the only God) is uncommon.
-Choosing to live.
#In a common tent.
-Sending his Son.
#To be born in a common manger.
#To save common people.

Common People.
Common Places.
Uncommon God.

I. Consider The People.

A. David.

1. King David.
 - a. Living in a cedar palace.
 - b. Sitting upon a throne.
 - Promised by God that his dynasty would last forever.
 - #But it hadn't always been so.
2. Common David.
 - a. Started out as a common shepherd boy.
 - Working the pastures.
 - Taking care of the sheep.

- b. Common member of the family of sinners.
 - His lust led him to:
 - #Adultery.
 - #Murder.
- c. Common man.
 - Chosen by our uncommon God.
 - To govern the people of Israel.

B. Mary.

- 1. Common Mary.
 - a. Not a princess.
 - b. Not a queen.
 - c. Not even married.
- 2. Common girl.
 - a. But one favored by our uncommon God.
 - b. Chosen by God.
 - To be the mother of Jesus.
 - To give birth to the Christ child.
 - #Savior of the world.

C. Us.

- 1. Common people.
 - a. Neither shepherds.
 - Nor kings.
 - b. But probably more familiar with pastures.
 - Than palaces.
- 2. Common people.
 - a. As common as Mary.
 - b. As sinful as David.
- 3. Yet favored by God.
 - a. Chosen to receive God's gift of life.
 - b. Chosen to receive the uncommon gift of God's Son.
 - Son who hung out with common people.
 - #Prostitutes.
 - #Tax collectors.
 - *Outcasts of society.
 - Who got hung up on a cross for his trouble.
- 4. Common people.
 - a. David.
 - b. Mary.
 - c. Us.

II. Consider The Places.

A. Tent.

1. My kids liked tents.
 - a. Josh.
 - Always liked to go camping.
 - Sleeping in a tent was fun.
 - b. Joel.
 - Boy Scout.
 - #Eagle Scout, no less.
 - Did a lot of sleeping in tents.
2. I was a little different.
 - a. I did my share of camping.
 - When I was first married.
 - When we couldn't afford a motel room.
 - #When we traveled.
 - b. But as I got older.
 - Sleeping on an air mattress was not my idea of fun.
 - When Joel was a Boy Scout.
 - #Sunday morning always came.
 - *In the middle of weekend campouts.
 - #I was more than happy to serve as the troop treasurer.
3. My dad.
 - a. Never cared much for tents or for camping.
 - b. As a young man he often worked on threshing crews.
 - Moving from:
 - #Field to field.
 - #Farm to farm.
 - Often sleeping.
 - #On the ground.
 - #In a barn.
 - #In a hay mow.
 - c. Once those days were past.
 - He had no desire to give up:
 - #His bed.
 - #Roof over his head.
 - To sleep on the ground in a tent.
4. King David wasn't fond of tents, either.
 - a. He thought that a tent was not good enough for God.
 - Ark of the Covenant.
 - #Which symbolized the presence of God among God's people.
 - #Had been sheltered in a tent.
 - *During the People of Israel's:
 - +Years in the wilderness.
 - +Early years in the Promised Land of Canaan.

- b. David wanted to build a temple of cedar.
 - Place of grandeur.
 - Structure of permanence.
 - Uncommon dwelling for an uncommon God.
- 5. Through the prophet Nathan, God protested.
 - a. "Have I ever asked for a house of cedar?"
 - b. "Have I ever complained about living in a tent?"
 - c. "Have you ever heard me gripe about moving?"
 - "From one place to another."
 - "To be in the midst of my people."
 - d. "You want to build me a house?"
 - e. "I'm going to build you a house."
 - "I'm going to establish for you:"
 - #"Kingdom."
 - #"Dynasty."
 - *"That will last forever."
- 6. History tells us.
 - a. Dynasty didn't last forever.
 - Babylonian exile.
 - Davidic line on the throne of Israel.
 - #Came to an end.
 - b. But there was this hope.
 - Messiah.
 - Successor to the throne of David.
 - c. It happened.
 - Jesus was born.
 - John's gospel tells us:
 - #"Word became flesh."
 - #"And pitched his tent among us."
 - *Literally what the Greek says.
 - *John 1:14.
 - Our uncommon God pitched his tent among us.

B. Manger.

- 1. Feeding trough.
 - a. May have been in:
 - Barn.
 - Cave.
 - b. May have been in someone's home.
 - Where the animals occupied one end of the room.
 - Where humans occupied the other end of the room.
 - #Manger may have been in the middle.

2. When I visited Peru in 2003.
 - a. One of our evening meals was with a local family.
 - Uneven dirt floor.
 - Guinea pigs running around underfoot.
 - b. Only one of our tour group was not sick the next day.
3. Of all places.
 - a. For a baby.
 - b. For the Son of God.
 - To be born.
4. Common place.
 - a. Not in a palace.
 - b. Not in a sterile delivery room.
 - c. Not even in a bed.
5. But in a common place.
 - a. Manger.
 - b. In our common world.
 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.*
 - #Verse 2.
 - *"Pleased as man with us to dwell,"
 - *"Jesus, our Emmanuel!"
 - c. Uncommon.
 - In common flesh.
 - In our common world.

C. Cross.

1. Jesus experienced the death of a common criminal.
 - a. Nailed to a cross.
 - b. Crucified between two thieves.
2. Laid in a common grave.
 - a. Common fate.
 - b. For this uncommon child.
 - Sent into our common world.
 - #By our uncommon God.
3. Raised in an uncommon resurrection.
 - a. To fulfill God's promise to David.
 - b. To rule forever and ever and ever.

D. Our Homes.

1. Common places, really.
 - a. Oh, your home is special to you.
 - b. My home is special to me.

2. I've been in most of your homes.
 - a. Some are newer.
 - Some are older.
 - b. Some are bigger.
 - Some are smaller.
 - c. Some are more elaborately decorated.
 - Some are much simpler.
 - d. But there are no:
 - Mansions.
 - Palaces.
3. Common places.
 - a. Where sometimes there is:
 - Joy.
 - Laughter.
 - Peace.
 - b. Where sometimes there is:
 - Grief.
 - Dissension.
 - Fear.
4. But God is there.
 - a. Emmanuel.
 - God with us.
 - b. Our uncommon God.
 - In our common places.

III. Consider Our Uncommon God.

- A. Chooses Common People.
 1. David.
 - a. Lowly shepherd boy.
 - b. To be:
 - King of Israel.
 - Ancestor of Jesus Christ.
 2. Mary.
 - a. Lowly virgin girl.
 - b. To be:
 - Mother of the Christ child.
 3. Us.
 - a. Lowly, weak, and imperfect as we are.
 - b. To be:
 - His children.
 - Recipients of his gift of life.

B. Chooses To Be In the Most Common Places.

1. Tent.
2. Manger.
3. Cross.
4. Our homes.

C. Chooses The Most Common Elements.

1. Water and Word.
2. Bread and wine.

D. To Accomplish The Most Uncommon Results.

1. Love.
2. Forgiveness.
3. Redemption.
4. Salvation.

Concl: On this last Sunday of Advent.

-We common people.

#In our common places.

-Await the birth of our uncommon savior.