

# Unusual Christmas



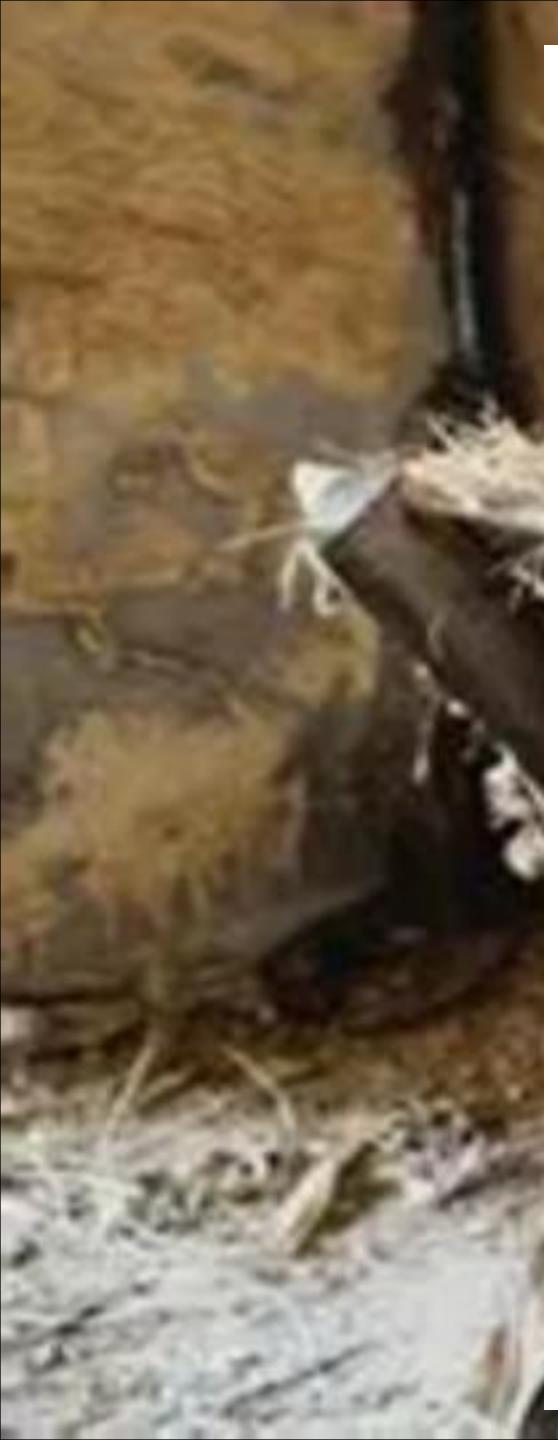
Edward Church

December 14, 2025

Unusual  
Birth

*Not Your  
Usual  
Christmas  
Sermon –pt2  
Luke 2:6–7*





- Not in a Palace, but in a Stable
- Not in Silk, but in Swaddling Clothes

**Know This ...**

- The Manger was Not a Mistake...
- it was a Message

**God was saying, ‘I am Emmanuel =  
*God with you, even in the lowest of places’***



## Micah 5:2 (NIV)

*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrath,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me one  
who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from old,  
from ancient times.”*



**Manger = GK -feeding trough**

Micah 5:2 (NIV)

- **Swaddling Clothes =**

- **Humility**

- **Foreshadowing of Grave Clothes**

- **Micah 5:2 — prophecy fulfilled in Bethlehem**

- **Isaiah 53:2 — “No beauty or majesty to attract us”**

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying,

John 20:6



# **Then Simon Peter came, following**

- **John 19:40 — Jesus wrapped in linen strips**
- **John 20:6–7 — Grave clothes left behind, head cloth folded**
  - **Grave Clothes = Proof of Death;**
  - **Empty Tomb = Proof of Victory**





## **God's Glory in Humble Wrapping?**

- Swaddling Clothes Looked Like Rags...**  
**...but They Wrapped the King**
- Grave Clothes Looked Like Defeat...**  
**...but They Were Left Behind in Victory**

*Challenge:*

**Will you Recognize God's Presence...  
...even when it looks Ordinary?**

**Will you Embrace His Glory even when it comes...  
...in Humble Wrapping?"**





***“Don’t Despise Small Beginnings!”***

**SayOutloud: *Unusual Birth, Unusual Glory!***

- **Manger Held Him As A Baby;**
- **Cross Held Him As A Savior**
- **Swaddling Clothes → Grave Clothes → Glory!**

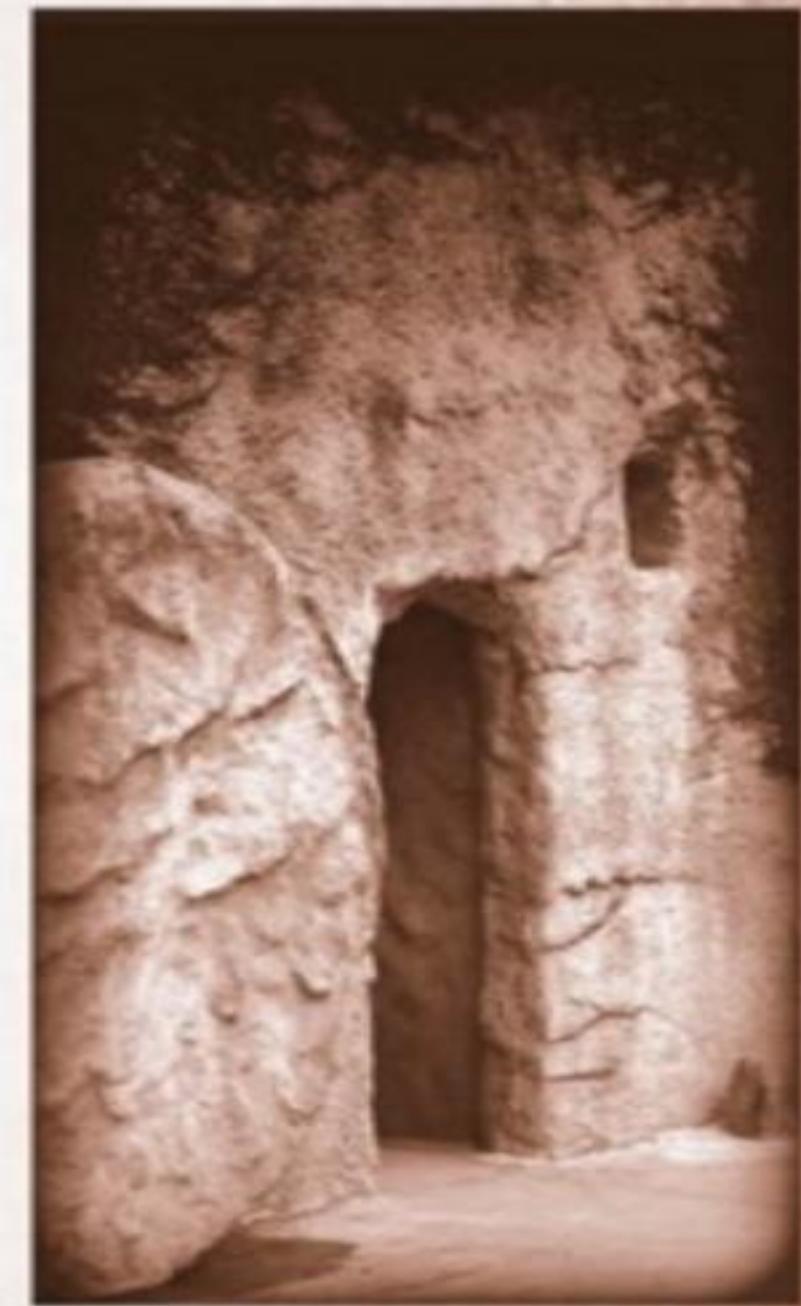
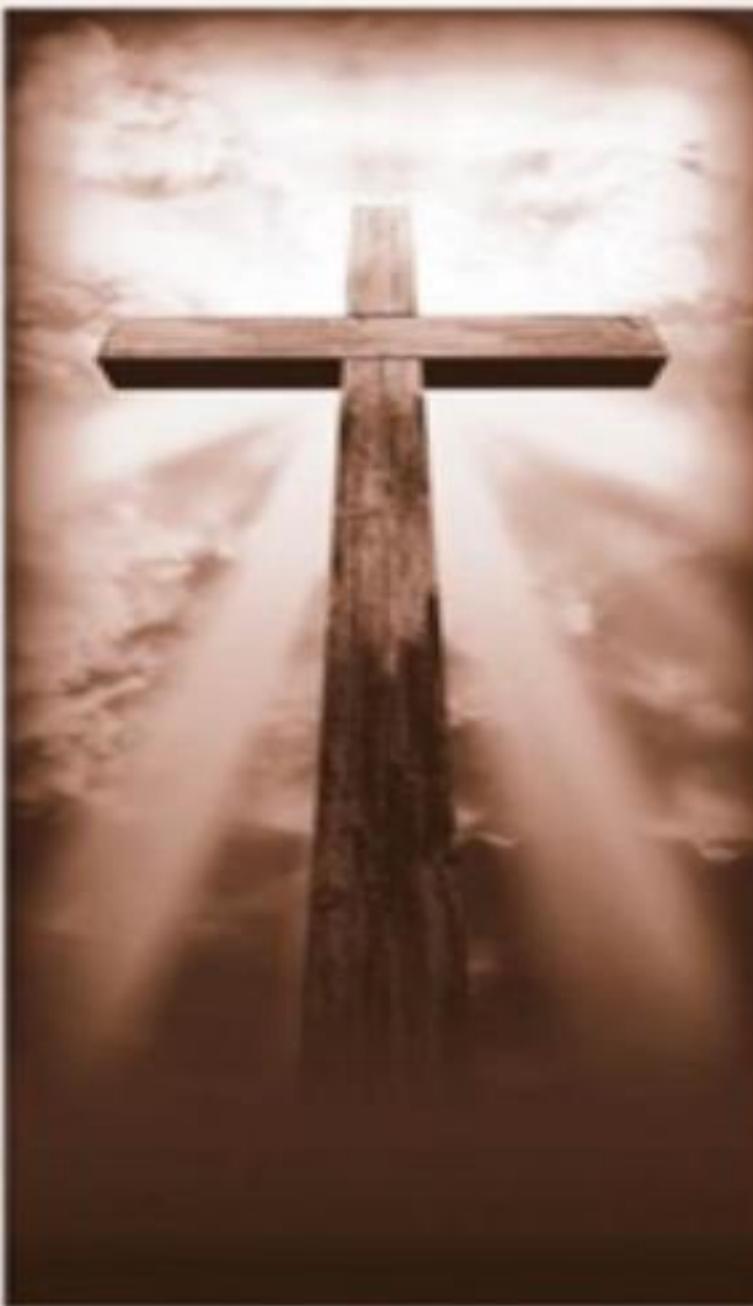
**Challenge:**

**Will You Leave Behind Your Own Grave Clothes**

**Sin, Shame, Fear**

**And**

**Step Into Resurrection Life?**



# Conclusion

- **God is with us in Every Place —**
  - **High or Low**
- **From Swaddling Clothes to Grave Clothes,**
  - **From Manger to Cross**
- **Jesus embraced humility so we could inherit glory**

**Challenge:**

**Will you see the Cross in the Cradle?  
Will you see your Salvation in His Humility?"**

**Challenge:**

**Will you open your heart to revival in unusual places  
maybe even in your own home,  
your workplace,  
your family?"**

# Manger      Cross



# Manger      Cross

**Cave (7)**  
**Borrowed Stable**  
• **They Had No Way**  
• **God Made a Way...**  
**...Where There Was No Way**



# Manger      Cross

**Cave (7)**

**Borrowed Stable**

- **They Had No Way**
- **God Made a Way...**

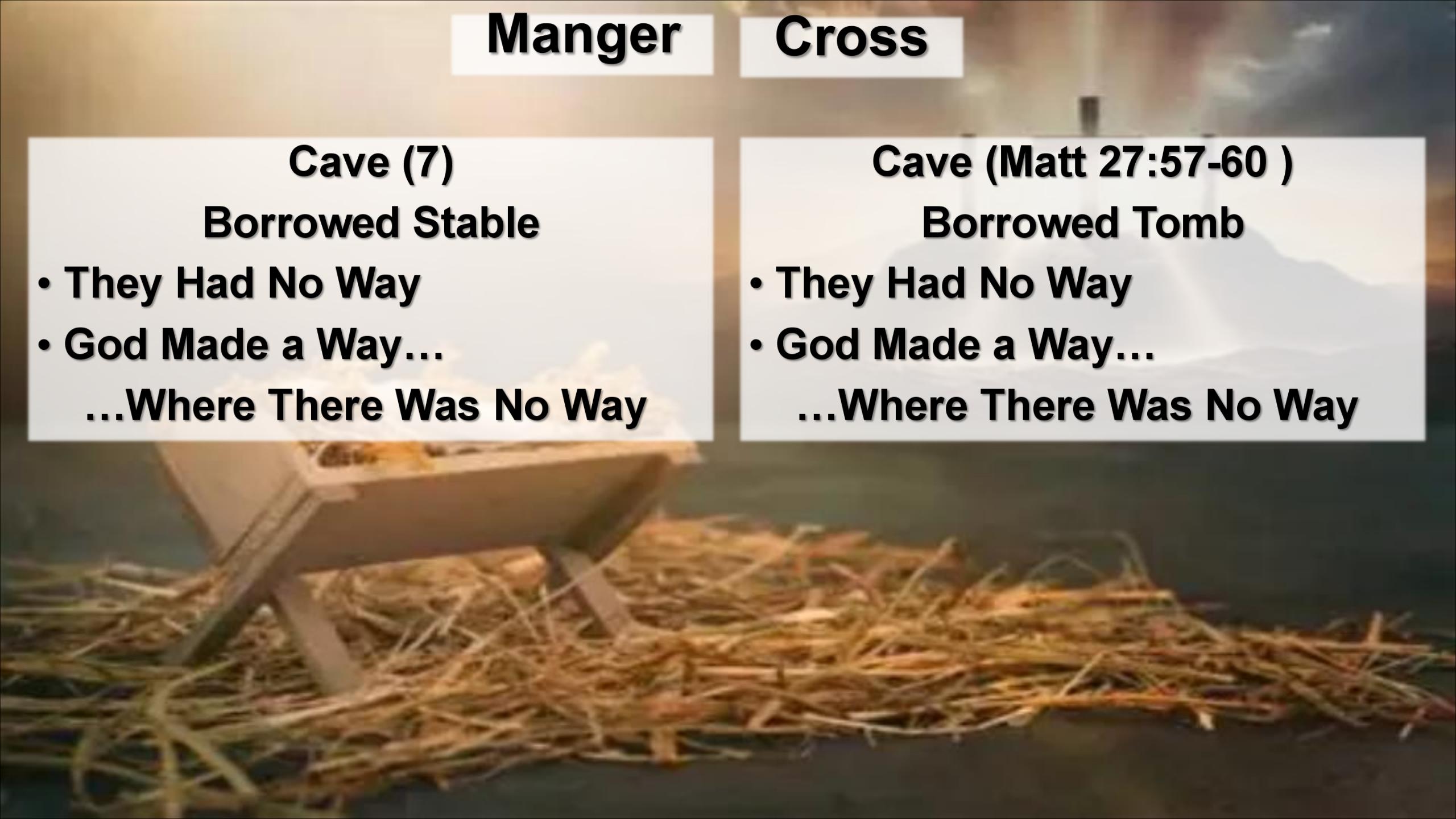
**...Where There Was No Way**

**Cave (Matt 27:57-60 )**

**Borrowed Tomb**

- **They Had No Way**
- **God Made a Way...**

**...Where There Was No Way**



**Manger**

**Cross**



# Manger

## Manger (7)

- Broken Wood
- Carry Out Common Task
- Dispense Broken Food
- Helpless
- In Hands of Others
- Back Upon the Wood
- Precious Gift

# Cross



# Manger

## Manger (7)

- Broken Wood
- Carry Out Common Task
- Dispense Broken Food
- Helpless
- In Hands of Others
- Back Upon the Wood
- Precious Gift

# Cross

## Cross (John 19:17)

- Broken Wood
- Carry Out Common Task
- Dispense Broken Body
- Helpless
- In Hands of Others
- Back Upon the Wood
- Precious Gift

anger

cross



anger

Cross

## Swaddling Clothes

- Linen Strips
- Brought Comfort
- Temporary
- One-Time Use
- Soon Empty



anger

Cross

## **Swaddling Clothes**

- Linen Strips
- Brought Comfort
- Temporary
- One-Time Use
- Soon Empty

## **Grave Clothes**

- Linen Strips
- Brought Comfort
- Temporary
- One-Time Use
- Soon Empty





*Take Off His Grave Clothes  
and Let Him Go*

JOHN 11:43-44; ROMANS 6:3-7

**“Lord, tonight we thank You for the unusual birth that  
brought unusual glory.**

**We lay down our grave clothes — our shame, sin, our fear  
and step into Your light.**

**Wrap us now in Your righteousness, and  
let Your glory shine through us.”**





## **Power Declarations**

**“My Nazareth is Enough!”**

**“Grace Has Stamped My Life!”**

**“Fear Falls — Favor Stands Tall!”**

**“My Room is Holy Ground!”**

**“My Yes Detonates Destiny!”**

**The Manger and the Cross...**

**No Shame but Glory**



- The owner of a drug store walks in to find a guy leaning heavily against a wall.
- The owner asks the clerk "What's with that guy over there by the wall?"
- The clerk replies, "Well, he came in here this morning to get something for his cough. I couldn't find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative."
- The owner screams, "You goober! You can't treat a cough with a bottle of laxatives!"
- The clerk calmly replies, "Of course you can! Look at him; he's afraid to cough!"