

## **Sermon highlights from the last message of 2024**

### **MAKING ROOM FOR ONE MORE**

**by Pastor Joe**

#### **A New Year, A New Start: Align with God and Abound in Life**

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, can you sense the potential for fresh starts that arrive at this time each year. The transition from one year to the next offers us a unique opportunity to reflect, reset, and realign our lives with the purposes and plans that God has for us. It's a time to leave behind the burdens of the past and embrace the new possibilities that lie ahead.

The new year is a perfect time to reassess and recalibrate to ensure we are not just going through the motions but are intentionally aligning our lives with God. Imagine how much the innkeeper in Bethlehem lost out on. He and his family could have experienced the blessing of actually being the hosts for Mary & Joseph at the birth of Jesus. But he missed this due to a "lack of space;" and we too can miss out on the abundant life God offers if we fail to make room for Him.

Jesus' exhortation in Matthew 6:33 provides with our marching orders for the new year: "Seek first My kingdom and My righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well." This call to prioritize God's kingdom is about aligning our hearts, minds, and pursuits with His. It's about setting our sails to catch the wind of the Spirit and allowing Him to direct our paths.

Aligning with God is not a passive endeavor; it requires intentionality and action. It involves daily practices that draw us closer to Him, such as spending time in prayer, studying His Word, and engaging in community with other believers. These practices help us to see as God sees, feel as He feels, and act as He would have us act.

The story of Joshua and the Israelites marching around Jericho serves as a powerful metaphor for perseverance in faith. They marched day after day, even when it seemed futile, because they trusted in God's promise. It was that "one more" time around Jericho's walls that led to their victory. As you enter this new year that contains great promise, I want to encourage you to persevere, make room for "one more" step of faith, "one more" act of obedience, and "one more" moment of seeking God's grace and presence.

When you and I align our lives with God's purposes, we position ourselves to have a life that abounds. It's a life that knows what it means to thrive, flourish, accomplish, break through, and bear fruit. It's a life where we are not just surviving but truly living in the fullness of God's grace and provision.

As we embark on this new year, let's commit to making room for God in every area of our lives. Let's seek His kingdom first and trust that as we do, He will cause us to abound in every good work.

Remember, you are just one decision away from a life-changing alignment with God. Let's make 2025 a year of aligning and abounding.