



A place to live Sermon on Christmas Eve John 1,12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Elon Musk, founder of Tesla and Space X and sole ruler of the social platform X, is of the opinion that there is no longer enough space on this earth. That is why he is looking for a new earth and is making concrete plans to emigrate from this earth because there is no longer

enough space for him here. If the richest person in the world wants to emigrate because he has too little room to maneuver and no place here, how must it be for those who have lost their home, family and land and have no roof over their heads? There are too many people who have no place to lay their heads, who are pushed to the fringes of society or who have not been given a real chance in life since birth. The worst thing of all is when people take the right to take the lives of others. Taking a person's life is final. This means that there is definitely no place for you here. You should disappear forever. And never come back. There are many people who die this way. There is too much bloodshed, too many who have to die in prison. And too many whose lives are extinguished before birth by human decision. For all these people who had to lose their lives in this way, there is a final line. A final one...

And it is precisely this final line that stands over the lives of us humans that Jesus wants to erase once and for all. Jesus wants to give us a space where we can breathe, live, love, be free and be children:

2But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God: to those who believe in his name,

Elon Musk's dream is understandable. But it is misguided. Because the problem with Elon Musk's emigration is that we take all our mistakes with us on the shuttle. Christmas is one of those days when it is revealed to us that we have a place where we can live and have peace. The Christmas carols touch the heart. It becomes quiet and calm around us. And the story of the birth of Jesus invites us to look into the distance. to dream. Do you want to go to heaven? We want to ask this question to the one who is in heaven and has the authority to open and close heaven. We want to ask God: "God, is there a place where we can find rest? God, is there a place where heaven can be felt? Jesus, who belonged to heaven, came from the universe into our world. He should know. And at Christmas we hear that the one whom heaven cannot contain is coming to us. We are not going to heaven, but heaven is coming to us. But for this Jesus, who embodies heaven, there is only a tiny little place available in the stable in Bethlehem. The first and best place was occupied by others back then. Emperor Augustus and Herod and the others. But where are they now? Today you can only read about them in the history books. But this Jesus from the manger, who was pushed to the sidelines. He is alive. And whose life they wanted to erase once and for all, is alive. He is still alive. If the question today is where we can find heaven on earth, then we have to come to this Jesus. And we actually find this heaven in Jesus in the Christmas story. We hear about shepherds simply leaving their sheep to find the child in the manger. And we hear about Mary, who kept all these words in her heart. There was no place for

Jesus in this world. And yet Mary made the most important place for Jesus: In the heart. And when Jesus comes to us humans, he wants nothing else but that. He doesn't want to live in the palaces or the homes of the rich. He wants to live in your heart. And it doesn't matter what situation you are in. Jesus only wants your heart. And when he lives there, something completely new begins. And this new thing is love. When someone doesn't give another person any space. Or wants to erase that person and their life, it is because of a feeling of hatred. The root of murder must always be clearly identified. It is hatred. The root that we find in the manger is the opposite. It is love. In Jesus we find space to live. And above all, love. Love cannot stay with us. It always needs someone to be with. It needs another person. In this sense, we give each other gifts with our hearts. The little things are often crucial. The little things that make it clear: I am loved. I am and am allowed to be a child. I am allowed to live. Dear children! Dear adults! Christmas Day is about heaven. It is about heaven breaking into our world and making everything different. Do you want to go to heaven?

2But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God: to those who believe in his name,

Amen