The Empty Manger

Billy  (upset) Hey Dad, you’ll never guess what I saw, today!

Dad  I don’t know. What? No, let me guess. A sleigh with eight tiny reindeer?

Billy  Nope. Guess again. You won’t believe it.

Dad  Santa himself?

Billy  No way. Guess again.

Dad  I don’t know…the Grinch?

Billy  No. Come on, Dad. Try harder.

Dad  I have no idea. What did you see? You look so worried.

Billy  An empty manger!

Dad  A power ranger?

Billy  No. An empty manger. Somebody stole Jesus!

Dad  Stole… (double take) STOLE JESUS!?

Billy  Yeah. He’s GONE. (whimpers) He won’t be here for His birthday, after all. They have taken him away.

Dad  Wait a minute. Let me get this straight. Who stole Jesus?

Billy  I don’t know. There’s a bunch of other statues, but no Jesus one.

Dad  Oh, you mean the Nativity scene that stands out in front of our church?

Billy  Yes! It has Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the angels and the Three Kings and the animals, but NO JESUS! Just an empty manger!

Dad  That’s the way it’s supposed to be during Advent.

Billy  Are you sure?

Dad  Sure I’m sure. That’s the way it’s supposed to be. During Advent we look at the empty manger and wait and hope

Billy  Wait a minute. You mean it’s supposed to be empty like that?
Dad          Yes! It’s not Christmas, yet! We’re still waiting for Jesus to be born!

Billy       But I thought Jesus WAS born, a long time ago!

Dad          Yes, that’s true, actually.

Billy       Okay, now I’m totally confused.

Dad          Think of it this way; Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago, but every time you let Him into your heart, it’s as if your heart were an empty manger, welcoming the Baby Jesus to come and warm it up.

Billy       You’re funny, Dad.

Dad          I’m serious! Jesus brings His love to our hearts when we let Him in.

Billy       Is it the love that warms us up?

Dad          Yes. Jesus brings love to our empty hearts, like little mangers waiting to hold Him and cuddle him.

Billy       That’s funny. But cool.

Dad          Cooler than a power ranger?

Billy       Way cooler.

Dad          Right on, son.

Billy       Right on, Daddio.

The End