

A Shepherd's Perspective on Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

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I. Travel during pregnancy. Luke 2:1-7

When Joseph and Mary arrived in the city, they were in for a big _____: a baby was going to arrive that very evening.

- The Savior of the world was wrapped in strips of cloth, and He was laid in a manger, which was a _____ trough for animals.

The question for every person ever born is this: *Will you make _____ for Jesus in your heart and life?*

II. A not so silent night for the shepherds. Luke 2:8-9

A shepherd during biblical times was not a mild, weak little boy but rather he would have been a burly, _____ outdoors person.

- When an angel of the Lord stood before the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, the shepherds were _____ and afraid.

If we are not _____ by the Christmas narrative, then we have not fully understood it yet!

III. The shepherds were promised great joy. Luke 2:10-14

"If someone says, "I bring you good tidings!" it means they have information to share that you'll probably _____." (vocabulary.com)

- We were all condemned under sin's bondage, but Jesus took our condemnation upon Himself on the _____, so whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16-18**

The very mission of Jesus was to come to the earth He created and seek and save those who were lost, and His _____ began to unfold that night in Bethlehem.

IV. The shepherds spread the Gospel. Luke 2:15-18

The shepherds demonstrated great faith by taking the word of the angel and immediately _____ on their faith by going to see.

- If we will not share the Gospel and the Christmas story with others, we probably haven't fully _____ it yet.

V. The shepherds return praising and glorifying God. Luke 2:19-20

When a person has a genuine _____ with the Living God, Jesus Christ, they will be instantly and forever changed.

Jesus will _____ us right where we are in life, no doubt about it. We don't try to be good to get God, we get God in order to be good.

- Jesus clothes us in His _____ so that the Father only sees the perfection of the Son when He sees us.
- Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit as a seal, a down payment, and a promise as we are _____ in the family of God.
- Jesus left us His Word as a love letter to feed us _____ and someday we will join Jesus at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Luke 2:1-7**. Discuss how difficult the journey would have been for Joseph and Mary. *Why did Mary go with Joseph for the journey back to Bethlehem?*
2. Mary and Joseph may not have planned on having their baby on the night they arrived in Bethlehem, but God's timing is always perfect. *How do we tend to react when things don't go according to our plans? Do you struggle trusting God's timing? **Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 16:9, 2 Peter 3:8-9***
3. The question was asked, *"Will you make room for Jesus in your heart and life?"* This means He is Savior and Lord. *How would you answer that question? After you accept Jesus as your Savior do you still need to make room for Him in your life? **Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 12:1-2***
4. Read **Luke 2:8-9**. Describe what shepherds looked like in biblical times. *What is significant about shepherds being greatly afraid? **1 Samuel 17:32-37, Psalm 91:11, John 10:11, Hebrews 12:22***
5. Read **Luke 2:10-14**. We read the angel brought *"good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."* Discuss the good news and how that relates to how the world views the Gospel. *Do they see it as good news?*
6. Read **Luke 2:15-18**. When the shepherds hear the good news, they do something about it. Discuss how faith is an action word, not just an intellectual belief. **James 2:14-18**
7. Discuss the practical application of this sermon.