

Luke 2 pt 2

Luke 2: 8-20 NASB

In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

1. This is the famous Christmas story of the birth of Jesus

I. Refuge

II. Riches

I. Shepherds

II. Shekinah

III. Savior

I. Shepherds

1. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over the flock by night

a. God is revealing His Grace

- i. By choosing shepherds instead of more notable citizens
- ii. Shepherds had the lowliest occupation
 1. They were unskilled & uneducated
 2. They were on the bottom of the social class
 3. They're the least respected among the people
 4. They were not allowed to testify in court for numerous reasons;

- a. They lacked intelligence
- b. Weren't trusted
 - i. Were considered thieves & cheaters:
 - ii. poor standing in society
- iii. They also had a poor spiritual standing among the religious
 - 1. They violated the Sabbath to do their job
 - 2. They couldn't enter the temple to worship

b. God is revealing His grace by choosing the lowliest of people

- i. In the natural, the great meet with the great
 - 1. Kings meet with kings...
 - 2. It's beyond our human reasoning how God bypassed the rulers, the educated, the religious & choose the outcasts to proclaimed the greatest news ever
 - 3. This is not a small proclamation
 - 4. All of the O.T points to this great event

a. God becoming a man

ii. Why choose shepherds?

iii. **1 Cor 1:26** For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no man may boast before God

iv. God delights in those forgotten by others or considered nothing

v. As if to say, "The world may count you as nothing, but you are my special treasure"

c. **With respect to shepherds, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd**

i. He also said, I am the door of the sheep

1. He is both the shepherd by day and watchman by night
- ii. It's similar to saying there is a good Samaritan
 1. He's bringing an equality to the social classes that people have created
 - a. The walls of separation need to come down
 - b. He wants us all to realize that we're on the same playing field
- iii. In Christ, we are equal in value before God

d. There is much to be said about God meeting with those who are doing something (active)

- i. David was tending the sheep when he was called
- ii. Moses was tending his flocks...
- iii. Gideon was grinding at the mill...
 1. There is a saying "if you want something done, give it to someone who is busy; they know how to manage their time".

2. **Prov 10:4** Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.
3. Meeting with the diligent is probably due to the fact that whatever God shows you is not just for you
 - a. It's not about personal and private revelations
 - b. Whatever God shares with us is usually for the benefit of others
 - c. God is looking for diligent people to share with others.
- e. Without being told, the shepherds went looking for the Messiah in the manger
- f. Then they spread the Word about what they heard and saw

II. Shekinah (the glory)

1. **Vs. 9** And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them
 - a. 2nd Kings 2:11 suddenly, the chariots appeared for Elijah

- i. They were there all along
 - ii. We're surrounded by heavenly hosts constantly, we just can't see them
- b. The glory of the Lord is all around us and is visible in varying degrees
 - i. **Psalm 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork.
 - ii. The word Shekineh is not in the bible. Jewish Rabbi's coined the phrase means "he caused to dwell,"
 - iii. God reveals His glory when He wants to dwell with His people**
 - 1. He revealed Himself as a pillar of fire / cloud to the children of Israel (Exodus 14:19)
 - 2. He expressed His glory when the temple was dedicated and the priests could not stand to minister (2 Chron 7:1)
 - 3. We've probably understood these visitations from God as glimpses here and there

4. **God reveals Himself when He wants to dwell with us**
5. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
6. **Matt 17:5** While he stood still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
7. After the resurrection, He revealed Himself on the day of Pentecost and dwelled with the disciples
8. All throughout history, those who have been diligent in seeking after God have had mighty visitations of His manifest presence
 - a. Moses witnessed God's glory when God wanted to bring salvation & deliverance

- b. Solomon witnessed God's glory as God wanted to use the nation of Israel as a beacon of hope of salvation to the gentiles
 - c. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples witnessed the glory of God and many came to faith in Jesus
 - d. Many believers have witnessed the glory of God since the resurrection and multitudes have been saved
 - e. Those faithful believers in Azusa St experienced a fresh move of God where many got saved, healed, delivered
- iv. I believe God wants to increase the level of His glory in the church in these days.
- v. Why?
1. Because He wants to see His creation free from sin and bondage
 2. And He delights in using weak vessels in the process
 3. We're not just sharing an experience

4. We're sharing the Savior
2. This glory is not for us to rely on the tangible, its designed to lead us to Christ the savior
 - a. The signs are meant to lead us somewhere
 - b. These manifestations are not the end result in themselves

III. Savior

1. Vs. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord
2. The Messiah is here
 - a. The savior is here
 - i. To people who lived under the law Moses and were not free in their own country, this was great news
 - ii. They needed freedom from the law of Moses and freedom from their oppressors

- iii. Rome seemed like the biggest problem so they expected one like David, Joshua...
- b. It's easy to see why some missed Him.
 - i. They were expecting another David
- c. He's not arriving like a great warrior with a sword
- d. He's a humble lamb with a powerful Word
- e. He'll handle their biggest enemy; Sin
- f. **He won't just bring salvation; He is salvation**
- g. His salvation brings the forgiveness of sin and its consequences
 - i. Forgiveness for every sin ever committed
 - ii. The guilt/shame that you feel as a result of your sin
 - 1. Every sin committed will be paid for
 - a. No sin is too big for God

2. He'll also take away the sense of guilt and shame you feel about your past and give you a new foundation to stand on

a. By giving you a new heart with new desires

h. Most excellent Theophilus, I want you to read my letter carefully and watch the life of this Savior

i. Watch His Words

ii. Watch His reaction to sinners

iii. Keep an eye on His mission

1. **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost

3. Here is the sign for you

a. You'll find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger

4. After the mention of the savior, suddenly, a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests

a. A praise toward God who is worthy and gracious to extend salvation to lost humanity

b. Peace toward men

i. God's heart is for you to have peace through Christ

c. You will find an innocent baby in a feeding trough

d. God wants to tabernacle among you

5. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Joseph & Mary with the Baby in the manger

a. They shared with them what they heard and seen

i. What a blessing that must have been for Mary and Joseph

ii. I believe they needed some kind of confirmation that God was with them

iii. Mary pondered these things in her heart

iv. The shepherds went to tell everyone what they heard and saw

v. One proof that you've witnessed God's glory is you can't help but share with others

6. So while theologians consulted their commentaries, and the elite were looking around to see who was watching, the successful checking their calendars, the meek were kneeling. They were kneeling in front of Jesus. May God find you doing the same.
(Lucado)