

Christmas Message – 2024
The Wonder of Christmas – Part 3
Message: The Proclamation of Christmas
Text: Luke 2:8-20

Today, we will dive into a passage that overflows with joy, hope, and the transformative power of the Lord love.

In Luke 2:8-20, we find the announcement of Christ's birth to shepherds. This is not just good news; it's the best news! And what's more remarkable is that it's good news for **all people**.

***1. The Recipients of the Good News (Luke 2:8-9)**

The angel's message first came to shepherds. In that society, shepherds were often considered unimportant, marginalized, and even looked down upon. Yet, the Lord chose them to be the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

This demonstrates that God's love and message of salvation are for everyone—not just the elite or powerful, but for the ordinary and overlooked.

I personally find it amazing that the Lord sees value in all of us, regardless of our status or background. You may feel insignificant or unworthy, but the birth of Jesus reminds us that the Lord's grace reaches everyone.

***2. The Content of the Good News (Luke 2:10-14)**

This good news has three powerful components:

- It is for all people: The angel declares this news is not limited to a specific group but for everyone, everywhere. God's kingdom is inclusive.
- It brings great joy: This is not temporary happiness but a deep, abiding joy that comes from knowing our Savior has come.
- It announces the Savior's arrival: Jesus is born, not just as a baby in a manger but as our Savior, Christ the Lord—the one who will reconcile us to the Lord.

***3. The Response to the Good News (Luke 2:15-20)**

The shepherds did not merely hear the good news; they acted on it. They left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. After seeing Jesus, they glorified and praised God, spreading the news to others.

This challenges us to:

- Believe the good news: The shepherds trusted the message they received and sought Jesus.
- Share the good news: They couldn't keep this incredible revelation to themselves.
- Praise God: Their encounter with Christ led to worship and thanksgiving.

In the text the question that needs to be asked is, how do we respond to the good news?

Are we seeking Jesus with urgency?

Are we sharing Him with others?

Are our lives marked by gratitude and worship?

***Conclusion:**

The message of Luke 2:8-20 is clear: Jesus' birth is good news for all people. It is a message of hope, joy, and salvation. This Christmas, let us remember that the gospel is for everyone and that we are called to receive, rejoice in, and share this amazing news.

***Bottom Line: Key Points from Luke 2:8-20**

***1. The Recipients of the Good News**

- Shepherds, seen as lowly and marginalized, were the first to hear the message (Luke 2:8-9).
- This signifies that God's love is for everyone, including the overlooked and ordinary.

***2. The Content of the Good News**

- Fear not: The angel's message brings comfort to those in fear (Luke 2:10).
- Good tidings of great joy: The news is joyous and universal, meant for all people (Luke 2:10-11).
- A Savior is born Jesus, Christ the Lord, has come to bring salvation (Luke 2:11).

***3. The Response to the Good News**

- The shepherds acted immediately, seeking Jesus with urgency (Luke 2:15-16).
- They shared the news widely, becoming the first evangelists (Luke 2:17).
- They glorified and praised God for what they had witnessed (Luke 2:20).

***Application: Living Out the Good News**

- *1. Embrace the message personally: Recognize that the good news is for you. Jesus came to save **you**. No matter where you are in life, His love and grace are for you.
- *2. Share the message boldly: Like the shepherds, we are called to spread the good news to others. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus this Christmas season?
- *3. Rejoice in the message continually: Let the joy of Christ's birth transform your heart, filling you with peace and hope that the world cannot take away.