

A Savior is Born

Luke 2:8-20

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

One of the most endearing accounts in the Christmas story is that of the shepherds.

After Mary and Joseph have made their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem to comply with the decree of the Caesar, they have found no decent place to stay. So they are allowed to stay in the stable of the inn.

One of the things I never saw before is that there is no one else staying there. Is it possible that of all the travelers Mary and Joseph are the only two without proper accommodations. I doubt it.

But that fateful night has come to fulfilment. The Christ child has been born into the world. And after the trying ordeal the babe is lain in a feeding trough and Mary is resting.

What a day this has been, the arduous travel, the disappointment at the inn. The birth had capped it all off. But now they could take their rest and wait for the better day tomorrow.

But little did they know that the night was not nearly over. For even now God is planning and introduction greater than any earthly king would ever receive. For the angels have been despatched from the throne of God. They will soon light up the sky for some shepherds around Bethlehem and the heavenly appearance will change even more lives.

Because, unlike the wise men, the shepherds will be looking for a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

I. A Savior for Shepherds

A. Shepherds were not what they were in David's day.

1. David had once watched his father's sheep probably on those same hills.

2. But back then shepherding was an honorable profession.
 3. In New Testament times the occupation of shepherd had fallen on disgrace and disdain.
 4. Shepherds could not testify in court for they were considered untrustworthy.
 5. They were not allowed into the temple area for they were considered unclean.
 6. Ironic I know. Those who raised the sacrificial sheep were not worthy to bring them into the temple.
- B. That is what makes this passage so significant.
1. That the angels were sent to the shepherds rather than the religious elite was unimaginable.
 2. But Jesus came to be the Savior of even shepherds.
- C. Jesus came to save the common people.
1. 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV) 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 2. Luke 1:51-53 (NKJV) 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.
 3. The Messiah came to be both the Good Shepherd (John 10) and the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world (John 1:29). Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - New Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1.
 4. Among the occupations, shepherding had a lowly place. They were outcasts, not allowed in the city and not trusted by the general public, for often they were thieves. Luke gave this story about the shepherds for a reason. Jesus would come, not to the proud and powerful, but to the outcasts, the humble, those considered "last" on the social lists. To these men God brought the first news of his Son's arrival. Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – Luke.
 5. 1 Cor 1:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things

which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

D. Jesus came to be a Savior

1. What was the Good News? Not that God had sent a soldier or a judge or a reformer, but that He had sent a Saviour to meet man's greatest need. It was a message of peace to a world that had known much war. *Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - New Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1.*

II. It would be the wise, the rich, the important and the religious who would reject Him.

- A. Matthew 21:32-45 (NKJV) 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. 33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" 43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." 45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.

B. They missed it because they could not humble themselves.

1. They didn't need a Savior.
2. They were self-made men.

C. Jesus came to seek and save the LOST.

1. Lu 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
2. Mr 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
3. That is what Christmas is about.
4. God working to call a lost humanity to peace with Him through His only Begotten Son.