

## **Luke 2:8-20—Christmas Is Worth Celebrating**

### **I. The Shepherds—why shepherds?**

- a. Not a high-status job. Why not the priests, or King Herod, at least local merchants?
- b. Perhaps one more example of God blessing the humble rather than the mighty
- c. Perhaps it is theological:
  - i. Many considered shepherds unclean; Jesus came to cleanse the unclean
  - ii. Jesus is the good shepherd; maybe foreshadows his role
  - iii. Maybe connect to King David; possibly the same fields where David was a shepherd boy
- d. Perhaps they came to shepherds because they were available
  - i. God seems to delight in showing himself to those who are available
  - ii. With the census and travelers, perhaps everyone in town too busy
  - iii. Consider what Christmas has become: a microcosm of our busy lives
  - iv. Shepherds seem to represent a calmer life

### **II. Angel's Message**

- a. Evokes the common response of fear
- b. Angel's news: great joy—Jesus brings joy
  - i. For all people; Jesus' joy is not just for some but for all
- c. A savior—we need saved, not only from this wicked world but ourselves (sin)
- d. Christ the Lord—portrays his kingliness and greatness (ironic given the location)

### **III. The Humble Origins of this Great King**

- a. Born in a manger; Luke mentions this 3x
- b. Angelic host

### **IV. The Shepherd's response**

- a. They take the time to find Jesus
- b. They return to the fields glorifying and praising God; Jesus is worth celebrating!

### **V. So what?**

- a. Are we taking time to go to Jesus? (c.f. *James 4:8*) (consider your priorities)
- b. We too are 'unclean', but Christmas reminds us that Christ entered into our filth to cleanse us from our sin.
- c. How often do we express our Christian faith with joy and celebration?
- d. May we approach God in a humble way; and may we lift up the humble as he did; may we NEVER think we are too good for other sorts of people
- e. May we represent the kind of Kingdom Jesus ushered in