

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon
"A Shepherd's Choice"

Date
12-17-17

Speaker
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Joseph and Mary

(Vs) Luke 2:1-7 – They travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to participate in the census...

- The journey was about 80 miles and probably took a week to complete. Because of the census, there were no rooms available at the lodging places.
- So... Jesus was born and wrapped in cloths and laid in a feeding trough.
- This is also a fulfillment of prophecy – *(Vs) Micah 5:2*

But while Mary is in the throes of birth pangs, like any other woman delivering a child, angels are visiting shepherds...

- On the hills outside of Bethlehem, shepherds were about their daily business of watching the flocks... Night had come...

Shepherds and Angels *(Vs) Luke 2:8-11*

- The shepherds, like every other person we have talked about who saw an angel, were afraid...
- The angel quiets the shepherd's fears and begins to announce the reason for his visit...
- The angel declares... that his news is GOOD and JOYFUL!!!

Notice: This story a powerful example of how people move from fear to praise when they catch a glimpse of the glory of God.

Notice: Also, that when the angel announces the good news, he also declares it is GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE!

From here he tells them how they will know which child is the Messiah...

(Vs) Luke 2:12 – "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Think: Ever felt like you've failed at your God given task?

- Yet, this all points to Isaiah's depiction of the Christ!

(Vs) Isaiah 53:2b "...He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him."

Then It Happens!

- (Vs) Luke 2:13-14 - The Angels Sing!
- SUDDENLY! – a flash much larger than before – a light much more magnificent fills the sky!
- Now, not one, but a host of angels adorn the sky and they begin to sing praises.

(Vs) Isaiah 9:2 – “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”

- Then Suddenly the Angels Vanish! The sky fades to black...

The Shepherds are left alone and with a Choice.

Question: What shall I do with what I have heard here today?

Three times in the first two chapters of Luke someone is visited by an angel. Three times Luke records the phrase, “...do not be afraid.”

Zechariah - (Vs) Luke 1:13 – But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

- Zechariah chose to move from a fearful moment to a time of rejoicing over the promise of God.

Mary - (Vs) Luke 1:30 – And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”

- Mary chose to move from her fearful moment to a song of rejoicing over the promise of God.

The Shepherds - (Vs) Luke 2:10 “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

- The shepherds were given this same choice... they were told to share the declaration that the promised Messiah has now come...

AND... that they were now called to be the bringers of this GOOD NEWS!

- (Vs) Luke 2:15-16 - Let's go! Bethlehem is waiting.
- They made the journey from the hillside to the dwelling where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were living.
- Luke does not tell us how long they stayed or even what happened while they were there. But we do see the effect it had on them! (Vs) Luke 2:17-20 - Praise God!
- They left the manger and began telling anyone and everyone who would listen about what had happened.
- They had moved from fear and terror to a song of praise!!!

Question: What choice do you need to make today?

- Are you standing in fear while God is telling you the great promises He has for you?
- Are angels singing, but because of fear you cannot see the glory of God all around you?
- Have you realized yet... that this same Good News is both shared for you and supposed to be shared by you?
- What choice will you make knowing the Glorious Good News you have heard?

We have a choice today to be like these Shepherds