

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight
— SERVICE —

PRAISING THE CREATOR
FOR REVEALING HIS GLORY

Luke 2:15-20



Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which **the Lord hath made known unto us.**

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And **when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.**

18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

20 And **the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The circumstances around the birth of Christ are well known:

1. A decree for taxing compelled Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem.
2. While there, the birth of the Savior occurred.
3. Simultaneously, lowly shepherds were in the field, and angel announced to them that the Lamb of God was born in Bethlehem, the “house of bread.”
4. The shepherds went into Bethlehem and found the baby lying in a manger.
5. The shepherds gave witness of God’s glory.

For a few minutes this evening, let’s take a look at this incident from the shepherds’ perspective:

I. THE INTERRUPTION FROM THE ROUTINE

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

A. The Unique Timing

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- There are no coincidents with God's timing.

1 Cor. 14:33 For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

40 Let **all things** be done decently and in order.

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

2 Cor. 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: **behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)

B. The Unusual Testimony

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

- God dramatically revealed His gracious plan for mankind to the lowly shepherds.

C. The Unexpected Trip

Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us now go even unto Bethlehem**, and see this thing which is come to pass, which **the Lord hath made known unto us**.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

- The shepherds realized that the Lord had given them a wondrous revelation.
- The shepherds made haste to authenticate the message.

II. THE INSPIRATION ON THE RETURN

Luke 2:7 And **when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.**

20 And **the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

A. The Shepherds Focused upon Christ – “
...made known...**concerning this child.**”

B. The Shepherds Focused upon the Creator –
“...the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God...”

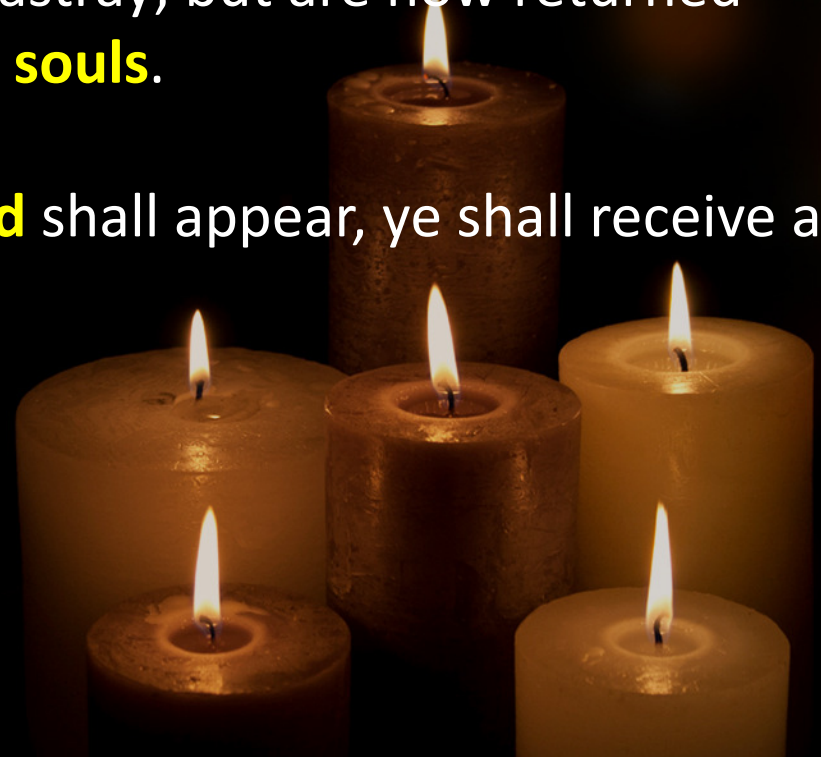
Conclusion

- The Lord Jesus Himself identifies with the shepherds:

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead **our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Pet. 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto **the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**.

1 Pet. 5:4 And when the **chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.



- We should never be ashamed to identify with Him!

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless **I am not ashamed**: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him** against that day.

Rom. 1:16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

