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December 21, 2014  
Elevation | 10:45 am  
Pastor Matt Doan

## The Shepherds Luke 2:8-20

### The Good News of Jesus is for You!

**(Regardless of your age, background, economic status, race and education)** Luke 2:8-11

*"for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord..."* (v.11)

- **The Reputation of a 1st Century Shepherd** (v.8)  
*"Shepherds were generally despised and disparaged by the upper class of society, especially in Pharisaic circles."*  
- Wendlaw
- **The Good News Angel** (v.9-10)
  - "good news" = Greek verb "euangelizo" (modern word, "evangelize")
  - "great joy" = Greek words "megas" and "chara" (mega joy!)
- **Born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord** (v.11)
  - "Born for you" - The Baby was not just born to Joseph and Mary, but for you and for anyone who would believe
- **3 terms used to describe the Good News of Jesus**
  - **Savior** = "One Who rescues", "Deliver"
  - **Christ** = "Anointed One", "Messiah"
  - **Lord** = "Owner", "Master", "Leader"

### The Good News of Jesus Displays Both Jesus' Humility and Kingship Luke 2:12-14

*"This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

- **Sign of Jesus' humility:** Placed in a manger (feeding trough)
- **Sign of Jesus' kingship:** Multitude = "army" of angels praising God

### The Natural Response to the Good News of Jesus is a Lifestyle of Worship Luke 2:15-20

*"The Shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them."* (v.20)

- **Shepherds dropped everything (sheep!) and hurried to the manger** (v.15-16)
- **Shepherds became followers of Jesus, proclaiming what they have seen and heard and joyfully praising God** (v.17-20)

## Digging Deeper:

### Biblical passages related to Luke 2 to reflect on this week:

- **The good news of Jesus being proclaimed to unlikely people:**  
Luke 5:27-32 (tax collector, Matthew); Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus); John 4:7-30 (Samaritan woman)
- **The good news of Jesus displays both his humility and kingship:**  
Matthew 17 (transfiguration); Luke 23 & 24 (crucifixion and resurrection); John 1:1-18 (the word became flesh); Philippians 2:1-11 (humility & glorification of Jesus); Colossians 1:13-23 (uniqueness of Jesus)
- **The natural response to the good news of Jesus is a lifestyle of worship:**  
Matthew 2:1-12 (the Magi); Mark 1:14-20 (calling of the disciples); Luke 18:35-43 (healing of a blind man); Acts 2:38-47 (the 1st Century Church); revelation 5 (Jesus focused worship in heaven)

### Quotes to ponder:

- *“unto us a child is born.’ But then it is added, ‘unto us a son is given.’ Christ was not only born, but given.”*  
– Charles Spurgeon, 18th century theologian
- *“Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven. There rested the greatest gift in the plainest of wrappings.”* – Greg Laurie, Pastor of Harvest Fellowship, December 2014
- *“Christianity’s first call is not ‘behave!’ But ‘behold!’ ”* – Matt Papa, songwriter, 2014
- *“so our whole life becomes the worship service, the thank-offering.”*  
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian (1906-1945)

### Personal worship response:

After the shepherds saw Jesus, their lives were changed and they left the manger as followers of Jesus, glorifying and joyfully praising God. How has Jesus changed your life? What are some things you can give glory and joyful praise to God for? **“God, I give you glory and joyful praise for...”**

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## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Read Luke 2:8-11. Why do you think the message of Jesus’ birth came to shepherds, of all people? What is God communicating to us through this?
2. Re-read Luke 2:11. What are the three titles given to Jesus in this verse? What does each mean? What does this tell us about Jesus’ identity, purpose and mission?
3. Read Luke 2:12-14. Jesus came in humility as man, but also in exaltation as God (100% God and 100% man). What aspect of Jesus’ character (humility, exaltation) do you most identify with? Why?
4. Read Luke 2:15-20. We see several responses to the Good News of Jesus in this passage (great joy, praise, curiosity, amazement, telling others, thoughtful meditation). What responses to the good news of Jesus are present in your life? If some of these responses seem to be missing from your life, why? What can you do to recover these responses?

## Next Steps:

1. Receive the “Good News” of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection by placing your faith in Him as your Savior and Lord. Read the booklet in the seat rack in front of you called, “The Way to Connect with God” to help guide you through a prayer of saving faith.
2. Celebrate the Good News of Jesus’ arrival by attending one of our one-hour Christmas Eve Candlelight services this Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Worship Center or at 11:00 pm in the Chapel.
3. Make Christmas week more sacred by putting into practice one of the spiritual exercises listed in the ‘Ways to Make Christmas Sacred’ list at [calvarylife.org/christmas](http://calvarylife.org/christmas)