

12.17 / Welcoming Jesus like the Shepherds / Luke 2.8-20

Luke 2:8-20 / Prayer / What did the angels know?

Last week - angels' response... This morning - shepherds' response

The Shepherds were a lowly and humble group...

The shepherds were not the **cool kids**. You remember the "cool kids". ones who every one wishes they were like or friends with, had something to do every Friday night, got all the attention, always had someone to talk to at the party, things just seemed to fall in place for them. The truth is that same dynamic plays out in the adult world where an elusive set of characteristics and circumstances land some **with** power, prestige, popularity and wealth and some **without**.

The shepherds were those **without**. They knew their low and humble position in this world and I imagine the Roman rule only solidified that position. Imagine...(Jotham, Benidad)

Jotham: Look at those stars!

Benidad: Can you believe those crowds?! Roman rule, lousy census, what a nightmare.

J: Can you even imagine what it would be like to be freed? What if the Law and the Prophets are true and right? What if God really did send a deliver to save us?

B: unrealistic dream... too good to be true.

J: Yeah... but what if it was?

B: The Roman Empire is huge and powerful. Israel is small and weak. We're stuck.

J: I wish it would happen. Can you even imagine?

B: Nope. Not gonna happen.

J: Maybe you're right. But just let me dream. Look at those stars!

And then, no sooner does Jotham finish speaking then the very stars that he's is gazing at seem to combine into a blinding light that is standing right before him in form of an angel.

The angel says, "(2:10-11). (*Don't be afraid comments*)

This is a lot to take in for the shepherds. **You:** yes... little you... I picture of flood of memories and thoughts swirling in the Shepherds minds in that instant. Self-worth questions from years of being overlooked, and undervalued. (*Give examples*) And this magnificent messenger from a Holy God says, I bring **you**... good news.

I want this **you** to set in. God sees the lowly. He notices the humble. He looks right through weakness, power, prestige, popularity, failure and success. The same God who saw value in the shepherds sees value in **you**; and me.

I bring you... **Good news:** In that day, this term would have been familiar. The birth of the emperor Augustus was announced with a report of "good news" and the arrival of a "savior." The Good news that the Angels speak of is about the arrival of a Savior for sure but one **very different** and **far more powerful** than the Roman emperor.

*Today in the town of David... a **Savior** is born:* Micah 5:2 – Savior to come from the town of David: Bethlehem. The word “savior” means deliverer. Throughout the Law and the Prophets, Yahweh is Savior (Deut. 20:4; Ps. 24:5; 25:5; Isa. 25:9). Isaiah speaks of a savior to come (who is God) – Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7.

Messiah: Anointed One – anointed king in the line of David – who’s kingdom will be established for ever (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

Lord: Master

*Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**.*”

The angel is announcing in the clearest of terms that the long prophesied, long awaited Messiah/Redeemer/Deliverer/Everlasting Father, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God... He’s here – Immanuel (God with us).

The shepherds like Benidad are in shock – “*you mean the prophecies are true?! (I’ve not been living a life of following the one true God, what does it mean now that he’s here, will I be included in His kingdom? Will he know what I’ve done? Will Rome be destroyed and Isreal raised up – surely this will be good for me...) – the prophecies are true!?*”

The shepherds like Jotham are overjoyed – *Yes! We’ve been longing for this! Yes! Finally! Thank you God for delivering us! Thank you. Thank you.*

These shepherds have just received the news that their people have been waiting for for 700 years. This is the biggest news of the millennium.

V12 Sign to you... (carefully snuggled & resting in a feeding trough)

V13-14 Suddenly... a host of Angels rejoice. As Rob mentioned last week – it’s as if a **veil** (or maybe reflex...)

- Notice heavenly reality – **consider the heavenly reality in each of life’s moments. Is this thought or action in line with the praise of Heaven or the schemes of Satan?**
- Hear the proclamation of peace – This is the longing of human kind.

After seeing how excited the angels are... I picture Jotham looks at Benidad and says, “So... should we go?” Benidad, “Yep.”

V15-16 / I wonder how exactly they found Mary and Joseph. **Did they leave their sheep with anyone? How long did they stay? Who and how many people did they tell that night and the following days?** I don’t know. But we **do know...** they found Him just as the angels had said and... **V17, 18, 20**

They shared the good news and they praised God. That was their response to all of this. They didn’t sit down & carefully layout an organizational strategy so they could effectively scale their endeavor (or carefully plot how they could monetize the sharing of this incredible news...). They just spread the word concerning what they had seen and heard. That was their response. **What is yours? “a Savior has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**.**

I wonder if this statement rings true for you: **One who doesn’t see their need for deliverance responds to the offer with indifference. Illus. Need deliverance!**

It's just fine ... NBA game, nice building, my abilities
But it's not ... Gaza/Palestine, hurting people, Rom 7

We all need deliverance. Our affluence and modern conveniences can deceive us into thinking that we're "just fine" but **we're not! We need deliverance.**

If you don't need delivered, than the news of a deliverer is **no big deal** and... those Angels were making a big ta-doo about nothing.

However...

If you know that you can't completely protect your loved ones
can't assure that your children will grow up & make good choices
can't secure your own personal safety
can't heal all your broken relationships
can't protect yourself from all illness or harmful circumstances
can't even will your heart & mind to do all of the things you want them to do...
can't end the violence and injustice and evil in our world

And you see that the world around you is as weak and broken as you are if not more... **You know you need... we need a deliverer.**

One who knows their need for deliverance responds to the offer of deliverance with praise and by sharing this good news with others.

Does this describe you? Who have you told recently about your deliverance? [Share](#)

If you know you need delivered. I have good news for you: Our deliverer has come and He's coming again. So go tell everyone you know, that our deliverer has come and He's coming again.