

The Shepherds' Joy About Jesus

Luke 2:8-20



Shepherds

- Shepherds were considered ceremonially unclean.
- Shepherds were often isolated and forgotten.
- Shepherds were treated with contempt and mistrust.
- God has always worked wonders for the forgotten, for the despised, and for the lowly.
- The shepherds help us see that God has a message for sinners just like us.
- Everyone matters to God.



Attentive

- Shepherds were attentive to their jobs.
- Shepherds were so committed to their career that they never left their work.
- Shepherds would literally lie across the entrance to the corral to make sure none of the sheep got out.
- God came to those who were attentive at the jobs they were given to do.
- Heaven chooses to bring the message to the low achievers as well as the high.



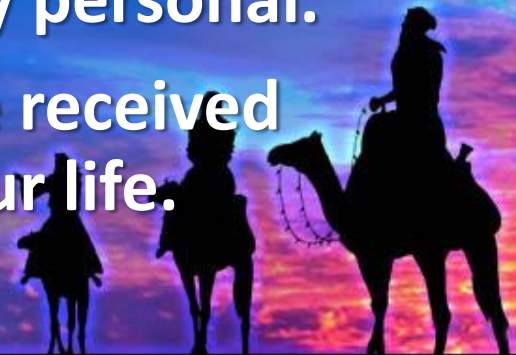
Awed

- The shepherds were awed and frightened by an angelic appearance.
- God meets us where we are, but then He brings us to our knees.
- Whenever we come face-to-face with God's holiness, we fall apart because of our sinfulness.
- The shepherds were terrified because they did not know if this was an angel of judgment.



Accepted

- The shepherds accepted the message of “good news of great joy.”
- The angel told the shepherds that he brought good news of acceptance, forgiveness and hope.
- Joyless faith in Jesus is a contradiction in terms!
- The message the angel brought was for the whole world, but it must also become deeply personal.
- God’s good news is a gift that must be received and once received it will stimulate your life.



Acted

- The shepherds did not just accept and enjoy the message they received, they acted upon it.
- Shepherds normally did nothing quickly.
- The shepherds could have doubted or delayed but instead they decided to act; they went and saw.
- The first thing they did was go to Bethlehem.
- The shepherds did not hang around the manger because they knew that they were now managers of the message.
- The message the shepherds shared had nothing to do with seeing angels, Mary's magnificence, or Joseph's job.
- There comes a time that after seeing, we must be involved in sharing.



Adored

- The shepherds went back to their same boring job, but they were not the same on the inside.
- The shepherds returned to where they started and were again attentive.
- It is possible to have joy in our jobs even if they are junky.
- When a person is genuinely converted, he or she will praise God.



Conclusion

- You can be changed if you follow the shepherd's example:
 - Be attentive to what God has called you to do.
 - Be awed by God's message to you.
 - Accept the gift of good news.
 - Act on what you know to be true.
 - Adore Immanuel 24/7.
- God declares that Jesus was born to YOU, so Christmas must become your story, too!

