

Fear Not, Just Come

Luke 2:8-16



Shepherds



- Of all the people in and around Bethlehem that day, the angels did not appear to just anybody they appeared to somebody.
- Even if the shepherds were inclined to be religious, they could never really be “Good Jews.”
- God has a special place for shepherds.
- These shepherds may have been in charge of the flocks from which the temple offerings were chosen.
- Most of us are not special enough for God to take an interest in our lives, but He does.

The Shepherds Were Told About Jesus

- The story about the shepherds is a look at how most of us became Christians.
- Andrew heard about Jesus from John and then Simon heard about Jesus from Andrew.
- Who told you about Jesus?
- We did not just stumble into Christianity.
- The Angels told the shepherds about Jesus.

The Shepherds Came To Jesus

- The shepherds made a conscious decision to leave the everyday and venture into the eternal.
- It is not enough to hear the message unless we actually respond to it.
- You must first make the decision to come to Christ in order to follow Him.
- The shepherds had to physically leave the fields and their flocks, come into Bethlehem, and then find the stable where Jesus was.

The Shepherds Told Others About Jesus

- We have made evangelism into some mysteriously difficult thing that only professionals or special people can do.
- 82% of the unchurched are at least “somewhat likely” to attend church if they are invited.
- 8 out of 10 of your friends and co-workers would be at least somewhat likely to attend church if you invited them.
- Two reasons for why we do not tell people about Jesus:
 - We do not believe that what we have discovered about Jesus is all that important.
 - We do not care about people’s eternity.

Conclusion



- It impacted the shepherds' daily lives.
- Many people are quite content to leave Jesus either in the manger or on the cross but there is no room in their everyday lives for Him.
- Our encounter with Christ needs to affect who we are and how we live.
- Our witness to what Christ has done in our lives will be played out not in church but in our daily lives.
- The question that really needs to be asked is: *“What does Jesus want me to do?”*