



12/25/25

Merry Christmas!!! Praying this day is a sweet day with the Lord.

*Merry Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 2:8-21

"O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth." Who should the Lord tell the good news to first? A king? The priests? The Pharisees? How about the shepherds who take care of the unblemished lambs who serve to atone for the sins of the people? But they're considered kinda lowly, at the bottom of the pit... people deemed unimportant. But, of course, God doesn't see as man sees. And what God values is different than what natural man values.

God sent the angels to announce His Son's birth to the shepherds because they would understand the significance. He is the final unblemished Lamb of God who doesn't just atone for sins, but He takes away the sins of the world. He removes our sins from us... as far as the east is from the west. He is the final sacrifice. When He gave up His life on the cross, He said, "It is finished," which means "paid in full."

First it was one angel who appeared to them with the glory of the Lord brightly enveloping the sky. Nothing like this had ever happened to them before. Nothing like this had been recorded in history. Panic. Fear. What's about to come?

As the angel said to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph, he immediately said to the shepherds, "Fear not. I bring you good news." Fear not... whatever God is going to do, I can always be sure that He's starting the sentence with, "Fear not." Why? Because He is good. His plans are good. He accomplishes good in my life... no matter how bad or scary it looks. "God is my refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Fear not.

Fear not. Behold. Check it out. This good news is of great joy... joy like you've never seen

before. Joy that is for all people, no matter who they are. Joy that fills you to overflowing, not just for today, but for all eternity. For unto you is born this day in the city of David (as prophesied hundreds of years ago), a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is our joy.

My joy doesn't come in my circumstances. My joy comes in my Savior. My joy doesn't come in other people. My joy comes in Jesus Christ.

It's so interesting that Zechariah demanded a sign from the Angel Gabriel. And in every other situation... God gave a sign to those who didn't ask for a sign... a sign that would be particularly meaningful to them. For Mary, it was that her relative was pregnant. For Joseph, it was a dream. For these shepherds, they would find this baby boy wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. Why? They knew what it meant. They wrapped the unblemished lambs in swaddling cloths and put them in a manger, a stone place of safety where these lambs would be protected from harm. Jesus is the Lamb.

The shepherds were given the beautiful privilege of seeing the baby for themselves. But not before a multitude, thousands, of angels filled the sky with praises to their Lord! "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom He's pleased." The God who IS the God of peace came to give peace.

If I am asked, "What do you want most? My answer above all is peace and joy. God is my peace and my joy. I can look for those in other places, but I won't find them. I don't need to. He fills me with His joy and peace if I let Him.

The shepherds were filled with so much peace and joy as they ran to see the baby Jesus. He was there with Mary and Joseph, just as they were told He would be.

What happens when someone is genuinely filled with peace and joy? They can't help but share it. The shepherds told everybody in their path! And then they continued to glorify and praise God.

I wonder if any of them were still alive 33 years later when the Lamb of God was sacrificed on the cross. Did they remember back to that night that changed their lives forever? I imagine everything they considered throughout their lifetime was separated by the before and after... "before we saw the angels" and "after we saw the angels."

And Mary saw all that happened and treasured these things, pondering them in heart. This is my prayer... that I will treasure all God shows me and teaches me, and continue to ponder His word in my heart... to meditate on the truth of who He is. No matter how much I ponder the Lord, I will never run out of reasons to treasure Him in my heart. O Lord, You are my treasure. Happy Birthday, Jesus, my Savior.