

CHRISTMAS EVE SERMONETTE: “GOOD NEWS FOR THE LOWLY”

Luke 2:1-20, David Geldart, 12/24/25

1. [1] Introduction — A Night Like No Other

- a. Tonight is a night unlike any other in the year.
- b. For centuries, Christians have gathered on Christmas Eve
 - i. in homes, in cathedrals, in fields,
 - ii. to remember and celebrate the moment when heaven broke into earth,
 - iii. when the silence of history was filled with the cry of a newborn King.
- c. And tonight, we join them.
- d. Not just to remember a story...
 - i. but to open our hearts to the same message that once echoed across a quiet hillside outside Bethlehem.

2. [2] The message of heaven is “Good News for the Lowly”

3. [3] God’s Message Comes to Shepherds — The Lowly First

- a. Shepherds were not the elites of their world.
 - i. They were poor, uneducated.
 - ii. They smelled like sheep.
 - iii. and socially invisible
 - 1. They kept the night shift, the job no one else wanted.
 - iv. If they’d been kids in your school,
 - 1. Wouldn’t have had nice clothes
 - 2. Would have sat by themselves at lunch
 - 3. they would have gotten picked last during recess
- b. **But God picked them FIRST!**
- c. When God chose the first recipients of his Christmas announcement, He bypassed the palace, and the temple, the wealthy and the powerful,
 - i. ... and sent His angels to a field.
 - 1. In the middle of the night.
 - 2. To the people no one else thought much about.
- d. Christmas begins with a breathtaking truth:
 - i. **God comes to the lowly and humble first.**
 - ii. **He comes to the people who wonder if anyone sees them.**
 - iii. **He comes to the ones the world overlooks.**

4. (The Night-Shift Janitor)

- a. There’s a story that captures the heart of this so well.

- b. Carlos worked as a janitor on the night shift in a large downtown office building. He was an immigrant, living alone in the States while sending money home, working tirelessly to give his family a better chance. Every night, while the city slept and the streets emptied out, he scrubbed floors, emptied trash cans overflowing from the day, and cleaned bathrooms most people would never want to step into, let alone mop.
- c. It was the kind of work nobody notices unless something goes wrong.
- d. He once said that the hardest part wasn't the filth or the hours.
 - i. It was the invisibility.
 - ii. People walked right by him.
 - iii. Never once thought about the person who had been there since midnight doing the dirty work.
- e. But every Christmas Eve, as he worked in the quiet, Carlos would think about the shepherds.
 - i. He would smile and whisper to himself,
 - ii. "If God chose *them*, the ones no one valued — then maybe God sees me too."
- f. Carlos was right.
- g. And that is the beauty of Christmas:
 - i. **God sees the people no one else sees.**
 - ii. **God values the people no one else values.**
 - iii. **God comes to the lowly first.**

5. ("Do Not Be Afraid" — God's First Word at Christmas)

- a. When the angel appears, the shepherds react like you and I would — they are terrified.
 - i. Heaven has split open in front of them.
 - ii. Glory fills the night.
 - iii. Fear surges.
- b. But hear the very first words spoken on the night Jesus was born:
 - i. **[4] "Do not be afraid."**
 - 1. Not "Try harder."
 - 2. Not "Clean up your act."
 - 3. Not "You're in trouble."
- c. God knows our fears:
 - i. fear of the future,
 - 1. of not being enough,
 - 2. of being alone.

- ii. Kids, God knows you're sometimes afraid of the dark
 - 1. Scared about school
 - 2. Or scared you might mess up
- d. But Christmas starts with God saying:
 - i. **"Do not be afraid... I am with you."**

6. ("A Savior Born to You" — The Personal Gift)

- a. If you want the entire Christmas message distilled into one line, it's this:
 - i. **[5] Good news of Great joy for ALL people.**
- b. Noce that the angel does not merely say "A Savior has been born,"
- c. He says,
 - i. **[6] "A Savior has been born to you."**
- d. Yes you.
- e. Jesus came for your wounds.
 - i. For your fear.
 - ii. For your story.
 - iii. For your salvation.
- f. Kids, Jesus didn't just come for adults.
 - i. He came for everyone – kids too!
- g. If all the lights and presents and songs disappeared,
 - i. Christmas would still be the best news in the world
 - ii. because God's Son came **to you**.

7. (The Sign: A Baby in a Manger)

- a. The angel gives a surprising sign for the Son of God:
 - i. Not a crown.
 - ii. Not a warrior.
- b. **[7] But a baby.**
 - i. Wrapped in humble swaddling cloth.
 - ii. Lying in a manger — a feeding trough.
- c. The manger whispers:
 - i. **Come close.**
 - ii. **I am not afraid of your mess.**
 - iii. **I am not distant from your struggle.**
 - iv. **I have entered your world.**

8. (The Heavenly Song — Glory and Peace)

- a. Suddenly the sky fills with angels shouting (no mention of singing):
 - i. **[8] "Glory to God in the highest... and on earth peace..."**

- b. Heaven and earth meet in Jesus!
 - i. Glory rises.
 - ii. Peace descends.
- c. That means peace is not found in your circumstances lining up.
 - i. Peace is found in a Person — the Prince of Peace.

9. (The Shepherds Respond)

[9] Luke 2:15–20: ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the

[10] shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

a. [11] The shepherds responded!

- i. LETS GO SEE!
- ii. They hurry, find, and worship
- iii. And then they go out and tell everyone they meet.
 - 1. They didn’t have to know a lot
 - 2. Just had to share what they knew with who they knew
 - 3. Even kids can do that!

b. Because you can’t encounter Jesus — truly encounter Him —

- i. and then keep the story to yourself.

c. [12] Christmas always invites a response:

- i. Hear the good news.
- ii. Come and see the Savior.
- iii. Go and share the joy.

10. (Application — What This Means for Us Tonight)

- a. So what does all this mean for you and me tonight?
- b. It means Christmas is for the lowly — for anyone who’s ever felt invisible.
 - i. He came not for the spiritually impressive but for the humble,
 - ii. the hurting, the searching, the messy, the sinners, the wanderers, the weary.
 - iii. God sees you right, where you are.
- c. It means a Savior has been born to you.

- i. God comes personally to rescue you.
- d. **Kids, this week when things feel loud or busy or overwhelming, remember this:**
 - i. Jesus came for you.
 - ii. You are seen.
 - iii. You are loved.
 - iv. You are not forgotten.
- e. **It means you are invited — tonight — again or for the first time**
 - i. to come near,
 - ii. to kneel at the manger,
 - iii. and to receive the gift of Jesus Christ.

11.(Candlelight Transition — Light in the Darkness)

- a. In a moment, we will light our candles.
- b. This tradition is ancient — and beautiful — because it reminds us of something eternal about Jesus that John writes about in chapter 1:
 - i. **The light shines in the darkness,**
 - ii. **and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- c. **Kids, when you hold your candle tonight, remember this:**
 - i. Jesus is the light.
 - ii. And His light is for you too.
- d. As we pass the light from candle to candle, imagine the shepherds passing the message from heart to heart:
 - i. “Good news... great joy... for all people.”
- e. Imagine the quiet glory of that night spilling into this one.
- f. Imagine the God who came to shepherds and night-shift workers still coming to us.
- g. And who will one day come again to make all things brand new.

12.(Conclusion — A Savior for You)

- a. Tonight, receive the same message spoken to those shepherds:
 - i. **Do not be afraid.**
 - ii. **A Savior has been born.**
 - iii. **And He has been born to you.**
- b. THANK YOU GOD!
 - i. **For Coming near to us. In our mess and stress.**
 - ii. **And giving us the gift beyond all gifts: Yourself**
- c. May Your peace fill our hearts
 - i. May Your joy strengthen our souls.
- d. And may Your presence go with us this Christmas. Amen.

LUKE 2 ¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting



a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them,



“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”





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A baby in a manger.

Glory to God and peace on earth.



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