

Lessons from the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:11-12

Main Point: The shepherd's response during the first Christmas taught us some lessons to make the most of Christmas today.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What experiences, images, and ideas come to mind when you think about Christmas?

What distracts you from worshiping Christ during the holidays?

Christmas can be a joyful time, but it can also be a very stressful and dividing time as well. The holiday season interrupts the daily routines and schedules and our lives suddenly become more busy and hectic. The story of the shepherds reflects this reality. They were simply doing their job and living life as normal when the first Christmas interrupted everything. How they respond to the news of the Messiah should give us a good idea of how we can make the most of this time in our lives.

Three lessons the shepherds taught us are:

1) **LISTEN. Read Luke 2:8-14.**

Have you ever experienced "auto-pilot" mode while driving or doing a routine task? How do we tend to do this in our walk with the Lord?

What got the shepherd's attention? What does it take to get your attention concerning the reason for Christmas?

What can you do this week to do a better job of listening to what God has to say to you about His Son, about Christmas, and about your life?

2) **RESPOND. Read Luke 2:15-19.**

What was the shepherd's response to the good news of Jesus' birth? How could they have delayed in their response? How do people often delay in responding to the good news today?

How do you typically respond to the stresses of the Christmas season? What can we learn about priorities during Christmas from the shepherds?

What are some ways to keep Jesus' sacrificial work which began with His birth—central to your thinking as you go about your week?

3) **CELEBRATE. Read Luke 2:20.**

How has encountering Christ changed your identity? If you are a Christian, what is your ultimate purpose in life?

How can we be more intentional about worshiping God for the birth of Jesus with our family, Christian friends, and non-Christian friends?

Why is Jesus' birth good news for "all the people"? What is our church doing to help celebrate and spread the news around the world? How are you helping, or how can you get involved?

Apply It:

What things in your life are distracting you from delighting in Christ? How might you need to reevaluate your relationship with those things?

Pray:

Lord we praise and worship you just as the shepherds did long ago. We thank you for sending your son and pray that our response would be one that honors you. Help us to spread the good news of your coming to those around us and live each day in worship to you.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Dec. 17th - Haiti Mission Team Interest Meeting;

Dec. 17th - 2018 Budget Meeting/Vote

Dec. 24th - Normal service times at 8:45am and 10am

Dec. 31st - Normal service times at 8:45am and 10am