

LESSONS FROM THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20 / 4-7-19 / PM

I. WHO WERE THESE SHEPHERDS?

- A. Shepherding is one of the oldest professions in the world.
1. According to Genesis 1:26, Adam had dominion over the entire animal kingdom.
 2. According to Genesis 4:2, Abel was called a keeper of sheep.
 3. Many others in the Old Testament were shepherds—Jacob and his sons, Moses, and David.
- B. Shepherding is a prominent metaphor used in the Bible.
1. God is portrayed as a shepherd in our beloved 23rd Psalm.
Psalm 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd.....
 2. Isaiah describes God as a shepherd—Isa. 40:11.
 3. Jesus described himself as the good shepherd—John 10:11.
 4. Pastors are also called shepherds, in fact, the word pastor means shepherd—1 Peter 5:2.
1 Peter 5:2
Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them...
- C. Shepherding, however, lost some of its luster by the time of the New Testament because they could not maintain the religious purity demanded by the Pharisees.

II. WHY WERE SHEPHERDS INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

- A. One reason is found in 1 Corinthians 1:27-28.
- B. Another reason is that it brought joy to these shepherds—Luke 2:10.
- C. Still another reason was to affirm God’s messages to Joseph and Mary—2:19.
- D. Yet another reason the shepherds were there was to give glory to God—2:14a, 20.

Luke 2:14a

“Glory to God in the highest heaven...

Luke 2:20

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

III. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM THESE SHEPHERDS?

1. The gospel message is for everyone—2:8-9.
2. God doesn't play favorites—2:10.
3. God kept His promise of salvation—2:11.
4. God humbled Himself by becoming a man—2:12, John 1:14a.

John 1:14a

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.....

5. Angels live to praise God—2:13-14.
6. We must be willing for God to interrupt us—2:15.
7. God is the source of true joy—2:10a.

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them..... I bring you good news that will cause great joy...

8. We can find God if we look for Him--2:16.
9. Good news is meant to be shared—2:17-18.
10. God deserves our praise throughout the day regardless of what we're doing—2:20.