

CHRISTMAS DAY 2022 Luke 2:8-20

UNTO YOU A SAVIOUR IS BORN

INTRO:

- Life with its daily routines and sameness. Life as usual. This was the situation for these humble shepherds.
- Just another night alone, board, lonely, tired. Just them and a bunch of sheep.
- Then in a blink of an eye everything changed; "Behold" an angel of the Lord appears and all was alive, all was different and would never again be the same.
- And so it is with us the day we met the Christ, the Lamb of God. All was night like in my soul, empty, lonely, and alone.
- This morning let us receive this word of God with freshness and newness of heart.
- May God grant us hearing that is made alive by faith.

Read Luke 2:1-20

PERSONAL VIEW: VS. 10-12

- VS. 10 "for behold I bring you tiding of great joy. Is the message a "great joy" to me? Does this message light up my soul?
- Notice 4X the personal pronoun "you" is used. VS. 10, 11, 12 twice.
- The repetition is meant to draw our attention to the fact of God's desire to be personal with each of us. He is one to one, face to face.
 - I bring "you." VS. 10
 - For there is born to "you." VS. 11
 - A sign to "you." Vs. 12
 - "You" will find the babe.
- There are millions of men and women who have been saved and millions currently saved and millions again being saved, but to each individual one He has been personal and the relationship is personal.
- God comes to you, then you come to God. He first loved us....
- Not ones salvation is the same because we are all different. He saves mankind one at a time.

SHEPHERDS VIEW:

- In this holy local 1300 years earlier Ruth, the Saviors ancestor, had gleaned, lonely and destitute, yet gleaning in faith, as she was led by God to her Boaz, her near and redeeming kinsman.
- And again 1000 years before this night little David, the despised and overlooked son of Jesse had followed the ewes, great with young.
- It was here, in this place we hear, "behold I bring you tidings of great joy!" (Vs 8-12)
- Here it is where heaven and earth seem to mingle, where the angel proclaims and the out-streaming glory of the Lord enwraps them all as a mantle of light and glory.
- Notice in Vs. 9 it was the glory of the Lord that shown around them, not the glory of an angel. It was the Shekinah glory of God.
- VS. 12, this will be a sign to you, a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a feeding trough. What a sight..
- It is said that these pastures near Bethlehem were for the keeping of sheep that were used for temple sacrificing.
- As the little male lambs were born, if being perfect, they were wrapped in swaddling clothes to protect them from any injury and to keep them without blemish.
- A couple of commentators report that when they were brought into Bethlehem for sale to the temple traders, they were even kept in the animal shelters near the inns, being laid in feeding troughs to be inspected for blemishes before being sold. There also they were kept off the ground to be kept clean.
- Vs. 12, this will be a sign to you.. a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
- The scripture records their words and actions, vs. 15; "let us go now to Bethlehem and see, then in Vs. 16 it says and they came with haste.
- Vs. 17 "having seen HIM" is the emphasis and fountain of all that follows.
- There is no mention of the shepherds being impressed by the sight of others. Their focus is on the Lord.
- The sight of Him energized and motivated them to share the message with many and all those who heard it marveled.
- Vs. 20. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and saw.
- These shepherds obeyed, acted, shared, and returned glorifying and praising as they returned to the normal chores but things would never be the same.
- What the shepherds heard by faith they saw in reality.
- They had found God's word to be personally true.
- Has the word become real in my life?

GODS VIEW:

- All the particulars of our Lord's nativity were all of the humblest character and the very surroundings of His birth place were connected with memories of poverty and toil.
- 2 Cor. 8:9, For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- The Son of God must be born in Bethlehem. (the house of bread) VS. 4
- **JN. 6:31-35**
- Jesus is the Bread of life, the True Bread, This bread is given for the life of the world.
- VS. 32, I am the Bread of Life, Hhe who comes to me will noever hunger, (be content) and He who believes in me shall never thirst. Christ is enough.

CONCLUSION:

- To receive this humble Savior I must humble myself, wrapping myself in the will of God even as He did.
- Letting go of all my personal prerogatives, rights and pride.
- Surrendering myself to Him who is Lord, who will care for me, hold me, love me and lead me.
- These shepherds were lead from watching lambs to seeing 'THE Lamb of God.'"
- They were previously occupied with watching lambs and sheep, but they were not the God ordained lambs or sheep of His pasture.
- God led them to a higher calling; their priority shifted from the temporal and earthly to the eternal and heavenly.
- Let us pay attention and build our lives around the eternal and heavenly, for everything else is sinking sand...