
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:4–20

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.”

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 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.

Luke 15:1–2

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

GROUP DISCUSSION

Have you ever felt left out? On the outside? Not on the inside? What would it take for there to be good news in your life?

If there ever was a time that the world needed people they could just belong with, before they believed like them, or lived like them, it's this moment.

Can you sit with people who hold things differently than you, live differently, and can you still seek their good? Or, are you more like those that Jesus was responding to....the murmuring crowd, the "I can't believe he hangs out with them" crowd, the crowd that isn't interested in people knowing they belong but that is interested in people knowing they are right?

Are you able to trust that if people feel like they belong that God will do the work in their life that He wants to do?

Do the people who are far from God want to be with you? Why or why not? If they don't, why is that?

Do people experience Jesus at work in you? Do they experience the fruit of the spirit in you? Do they see you surrendering yourself and allowing God to bring about something new in your life?

How can our group pray for you in this?