

Outline

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.

I. Why Shepherd?

"Don't buy wool, milk, or anything directly from a shepherd because more than likely you are purchasing stolen goods."

Four Potential Reasons

1. Justice.

"He has scattered the proud in their thoughts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty." Luke 1:51-53

Opening Your Heart's Door to Divine Encounters Luke 2:8-20

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2. Symbolic.

"How fitting to have shepherds be the first to know and herald message that the "Great Shepherd" has been born at last!"

3. Foreshadowing.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:1-2*

4. Grace.

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)

He Get Us: *"Jesus invited everyone to his table."*

II. What Now?

"...returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (vs. 20)

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 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."(vs. 11-12)

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Encounters Luke 2:8-20*

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1. Put an End to Business as Usual.

2. Go and See

"Then he thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe, just maybe, Christmas didn't come from a store. Perhaps, Christmas means something a little bit more."

"glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen," (vs. 20)