

A SONG OF PEACE

Luke 2:8-20

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INTRO:

1. Disturbance defined
2. Disruption defined

A. A DIVINE DISTURBANCE

1. The **attributes** of shepherds (v. 8)
2. The **appearance** of angels (v. 9a)
3. The **aftermath** of the encounter (v. 9b)

B. A DIVINE DISRUPTION

1. A disruption of God's **goodness** (v. 10)
2. A disruption of God's **grace** (v. 11-12,14)
3. A disruption of God's **glory** (v. 9,14)

C. A DIVINE DIRECTION

1. The shepherds became **witnesses** of God's plan (v. 15-18)
2. The shepherds and Mary experienced how God **worked** all things together for good (v. 19)
3. The shepherds were transformed and **worshipped** God (v. 20)

CONCLUSION:

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.'" (Isaiah 40:3-5)

TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

It's worth noting that these angels did not bring the wonderful message of Christ's birth to those who had influence. They did not appear to the wealthy or to political or religious leaders. Instead, they came to the least significant, least respected, least likely people in the community. When God's messenger said he came to bring good news to all people, he demonstrated it by starting at the bottom.

1. Read Luke 2:8. Describe shepherds during the time of Jesus. What are their characteristics and why are they outside of the city gates? Why do you think the shepherds were given such an overwhelming display to hear about Jesus' birth?
2. Read Luke 2:9-14. What is the difference between disturbance and disruption? How has this passage illustrated the difference? In what ways the angel showed that this disruption has a positive outcome? How should we respond to the disruptions in our lives?
3. Read Luke 2:15-18. In what way the shepherds became front-row witnesses of God's great plan of salvation?
4. Read Luke 2:19. The word 'pondered' is the Greek word *sumballoo* which means to bring them together. In what way Mary has treasured and pondered the report of the shepherds? How does this passage remind us of the chaos and disruptions we often go through in our lives?
5. Read Luke 2:20. The passage does not tell us that they returned to the city but most likely back to the fields nearby. But what changed in their lives, their direction and disposition? What have you 'seen and heard' that makes you sing like the shepherds?

Choose a song of worship that captures what you have 'seen and heard' all this year and sing like the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem.