

THE WONDER OF HIS HOPE

Luke 2:8-20
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INTRO:

The different kinds of gifts during Christmas: want, welcome, waste, wear and wonder.

A. THE SHEPHERD'S BACKGROUND

1. They were ostracized (v. 8)
2. They were outsiders (v. 8)
3. They were outlined (v. 8)

B. THE SHEPHERD'S BESTOWAL

1. They saw God's glory (v. 9, 14)
2. They received God's goodness (v. 10)
3. They witnessed God's grace (v. 11-12)

C. THE SHEPHERDS BLESSINGS

1. A redeemed identity (v. 9, 10, 14)
2. A renewed community (v. 16-18)
3. A restored destiny (v. 20)

CONCLUSION

Our God continues to look after His sheep and identifies with the shepherds.

TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

1. Last Sunday's message enumerates the different gifts you will receive during Christmas.
 - Gifts that you want.
 - Gifts that you receive to welcome the holidays.
 - Gifts that you waste.
 - Gifts that you wear.
 - Gifts that make you wonder.

Share an unforgettable gift that represents one category mentioned above.

2. Read Luke 2:8. Although the work of shepherds was mentioned positively in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, they became ostracized and outlined because of the kind of people who took this menial job. Of all the people in the Christmas narrative, why would God choose these lowly characters to witness the good news?
3. Read Luke 2:9-14. Notice the different kinds of titles used to announce Jesus's birth. Parse each header and explain the meaning of each.
4. Read Luke 2:9,10 and 14. What are the roles of angels toward God's people? What is the significance behind the shift from one angel to a myriad of angels? How did this angelic visitation change the common misconception of shepherds during that time?
5. Read Luke 2:16-18. Luke used the word 'amazed' when the people heard the good news from the shepherds. The power of the gospel is in its nature to change people's lives. When was the last time that people were 'amazed' by your story?
6. Notice how this narrative ended in Luke 2:20 when they each returned. Where do you think they returned? Oftentimes, there is a silent expectation that we can have everything as soon as we become Christians. How does this passage give us the spiritual, natural, and practical aspects of our faith?
7. Close the Life Group meeting or your devotional time by asking God to give you the attitude of humble expectation of His coming this Christmas.