

Convinced - The Testimony of The Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Pastor Duane Lawrence

I. The shepherds were doing what they had done before - v. 8

-In the same country

-Living out in the fields

-Keeping watch over their flock

-By night

a. Who are these shepherds?

1. Simple men with simple lives.

2. Life of loneliness and labor - danger and poverty

3. Ceremonially unclean

4. Spiritual outcasts

5. Stayed constantly with the sheep

6. Common, illiterate men

7. Lowliest members of society

b. These shepherds, who were ceremonially unclean, were responsible for raising sacrificial lambs for the temple in Jerusalem

c. These shepherds were not respected or included

d. These shepherds' names are not even mentioned

e. These shepherds were just doing their job

II. The shepherds' lives were changed forever - v. 9

a. The angel of the Lord stood before them

b. The glory of the Lord shone around them

c. They were greatly afraid

d. The shepherds were completely unprepared for what they witnessed

III. The Message from The Angel - v. 10

a. The very first thing that the angel said to the shepherds was - "Do not be afraid"

b. Why should the shepherds not be afraid - they were receiving some "good news"

c. The "good news" was not just for the shepherds but for "all people"

IV. The Message of The Angel - vs. 11-12

- a. For there is born to you - (referring to the shepherds, which also includes you and me)
- b. This day at this very moment
- c. In the city of David - Bethlehem, the town where David was born (not the City of David, which was on the southern slope of Mount Zion - II Samuel 5:7-9)
- d. A Savior - destined to die for the sins of the world - yes, your sins and my sins -
- e. Who is Christ the Lord
- f. This will be the sign to look for - You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger

V. The Heavenly Host Praising God - vs. 13-14

- a. A multitude of angels joined the Angel of The Lord - "suddenly there was with the angel"
- b. Glory to God in the highest
- c. And on earth - peace, goodwill toward men
- d. The glory of the Lord had not been seen in Israel for 100 years until, in the presence of the shepherds, the glory returned!

VI. The Shepherds Response - vs. 15-20

- a. Let us now go to Bethlehem - no discussion or debate - v. 15
- b. To see this thing that has come to pass
- c. Which The Lord has made known-to-us-notice, the shepherds-did-not-say-the angel but The Lord THE SHEPHERDS WERE CONVINCED OF THE RELIABILITY OF THE MESSAGE
- d. The shepherds came with haste - v. 16
- e. Found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger - they found the babe just as the Angel of The Lord had said
- f. When the shepherds had seen Him - (Jesus) - v. 17
- g. They made known the saying which was told them concerning this Child-(Jesus)
THE SHEPHERDS COMMUNICATED THE REALITY OF THE MESSAGE

VII. The people who heard the testimony of the shepherds were amazed - v. 18

- a. The shepherds were the first to hear of the birth of Jesus
- b. The shepherds response was to worship Jesus
- c. The shepherds were the first to tell the Christmas message

VIII. Mary's Response – v. 19

- a. She kept all these things - made it a matter of private meditation and reflection
- b. She pondered them in her heart - as she had left it up to God before, she will now do the same

IX. The shepherds returned - v. 20

- a.. Glorifying and praising God
- b. For all the things that they had heard and seen
- c. As it was told to them THE SHEPHERDS CELEBRATED THE REVELATION OF THE MESSAGE

The shepherds who witnessed the events surrounding the birth of Jesus leave us with a legacy of response, which was anything but casual. Their response was intense and passionate as they gazed on the Christ-child and glorified His Heavenly Father.

What will be your response about the message concerning the birth of The Savior?