

**Wonder**  
***The Testimony of The Shepherds***  
**Luke 2:8-20**  
**Associate 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 known
- e. These shepherds were just doing their job – taking care of the sheep

**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. Encouraging Words 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 (the night of Jesus’ birth)
- 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 a 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 – no debate – no delay - 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. They 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 Had 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 story of the birth of The Savior (Jesus)

## **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