

What Do You Do With the Most Important Message in the World?

Luke 2:8-20

1 What do you do with the most important message in the world? When my children were born, I announced their birth to everyone. I was overjoyed! 2

So why are we so reluctant to share the greatest birth announcement in history? The shepherds in Luke, chapter 2, verses 8 through 20 weren't! 3

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 1 4

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to

¹ v8-12.

men on whom his favor rests.” 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.”²₅

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.³

As we look at this scripture, notice how the Lord’s birth announcement affected these shepherds and how they responded.⁶

First . . .

² v13-15.

³ v16-20.

I. They Received the Revelation - v8-14

They received the revelation. ⁷

What was the revelation? ⁸ Notice in verse 10, **But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”**

It was good news. The gospel is called the “good news”. This phrase refers to couriers in ancient times who would bring news of victory from the battlefield during war.

Our good news message is that Lord Jesus, God with us, was born. He taught us how to live God’s life as a human being and, then, demonstrated that perfect life by living it Himself. He died on the cross for your salvation. Then, He was gloriously resurrected paving the way for your resurrection! ⁹

It was of great joy. For you it is both now and eternally. ¹⁰ The Lord said, **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may**

have life, and have it to the full (abundantly). ⁴ That abundant life begins when you surrender your life to the Lord's authority, at your new birth, and lasts forever! That should bring you joy. ¹¹

It is for everyone. This is regardless of race, nationality, family, social or economic status. ¹²

Then, in verse 11, **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.** ¹³

In announcing the Lord's birth to Mary, Gabriel said, **The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us.** The message of Christmas is not Santa, or Black Friday, or a stocking over the fireplace. The message of Christmas is not even about stables, shepherds or wise men. **The message of Christmas is God is now with us!** ¹⁴

The revelation continues in verses 13 and 14, **Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host**

⁴ John 10:10.

appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” It’s a message of praise to God and peace to mankind! ¹⁵

This is the message of praise to the One who would love you this much; **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** ⁵ ¹⁶

This is the message of peace because the Lord brings peace to a confused life. Romans, chapter 8, verse 6, **The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.** ¹⁷

But this peace is for the ones who have Lord Jesus in their lives. **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.** ⁶ ¹⁸

But how do we, like the shepherds, receive this revelation? ¹⁹

⁵ Romans 5:8.

⁶ Colossians 3:15.

You open your heart to the word of God! Romans, chapter 10, verse 17, **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** ²⁰

You accept it by faith! For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. ^{7 21}

After the shepherds received the revelation, ²² how did they respond . . .

II. They Searched for the Savior - v15-16

They searched for the Savior. ²³

In verse 15, ⁸ they felt an urgent need to **back up their new faith with actions!** ²⁴

Then, verse 16 ⁹ says **they hurried off.** ¹⁰ They had to see that baby right now! It is not likely they slowly

⁷ Ephesians 2:8.

⁸ Luke 2:15 - 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.”

⁹ Luke 2:16 - So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁰ The King James Version says, “they went with haste”.

herded the sheep to Bethlehem. They ran! Finding Jesus was their top priority. ²⁵

How do you respond to the revelation? Do you put your faith into actions? ²⁶

What should be your initial response? ²⁷

The initial response to the believers in the New Testament was Christian baptism. Notice how the first 3000 to hear the gospel responded. **Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.** ¹¹ ²⁸

When the gospel was presented in Samaria, notice their first response, **But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.** ¹² ²⁹

Notice the Ethiopian's first response, **And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the**

¹¹ Acts 2:41.

¹² Acts 8:12.

eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.¹³ 30

Then, there was the Apostle Paul's initial response, **He got up and was baptized**.¹⁴ 31

The Centurion Cornelius' family's initial response, **So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**.¹⁵ 32

In Philippi, Lydia's initial response was . . . **she and the members of her household were baptized**.¹⁶ 33

The Philippian jailer's initial response was . . . **then immediately he and all his family were baptized**.¹⁷ 34

When the gospel was presented in Corinth, . . . **Many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized**.¹⁸ 35

¹³ Acts 8:38.

¹⁴ Acts 9:18.

¹⁵ Acts 10:48.

¹⁶ Acts 16:15.

¹⁷ Acts 16:33.

¹⁸ Acts 18:8.

The Ephesians' initial response to the gospel message was **On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.** ¹⁹ ₃₆

After your initial response to the gospel message in Christian baptism you need to **start growing in your personal relationship to Him** through Bible study, fellowship and prayer. Colossians, chapter 3, verses 1 and 2 state, **Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** ₃₇

After the shepherds received the revelation and searched for the Savior . . .

III. They Made Known the Message - v17-20

They made known the message. ₃₈

How did they do it? ³⁹ Verse 17, **When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child . . .** The phrase “spread the

¹⁹ Acts 19:5.

word”²⁰ in the King James Version is “made known”; actually means to know something by experiencing it. A witness in court testifies only to what he has personally seen, heard or experienced. When you share your faith you testify to what you have seen, heard or experienced with the Lord! ⁴⁰

In verses 18 and 20²¹ these shepherds created such an interest in what they had heard and experienced that those who heard them wondered and marveled! ⁴¹

Who else experienced the Lord and witnessed in this way? ⁴² One was a prophet; John the Baptizer. ⁴³ One was a biblical scholar; Paul of Tarsus. ⁴⁴ The rest were just common folks; fishermen, soldiers, merchants and even an IRS man! ⁴⁵

How can you make known the message in your life? ⁴⁶

²⁰ γνωρίζω.

²¹ Luke 2:18-20 - . . . and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. - v18-20

First, **personally experience the Lord Jesus** through Bible study, fellowship, devotions and prayer. ⁴⁷

Second, **allow fruit to begin developing in your life** through obedience to the Holy Spirit. Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22 and 23, **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** ⁴⁸

Third, **let the Holy Spirit spill over from your life to affect others.** Second Peter, chapter 3, verse 15, **But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** ⁴⁹

Remember, the first century Christians, under persecution, proclaimed Lord Jesus everywhere they went. If you have something better than the world has to offer, let them know it!

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