

Angels We Have Heard on High Luke 2:8-20

I. Intro

- A. Nice or Naughty? There is still time
- B. Today we talk about Shepherds again, lowly but significant
- C. And, it is possible that these shepherds were keeping watch over the passover lambs, as would have been the custom and law.
- D. Jesus is referred to as the lamb of God:
 - 1. [Jhn 1:29 ESV] 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - 2. [Rev 13:5-10 ESV] 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.
- E. Shepherds have importance in God's message:
 - 1. They were the first to be told, though they were not men of influence in society
 - 2. They then went to spread the word, not because they were told to, but because it was their natural response
 - 3. A shepherd protects, leads, and serves, and the proclamations of the gospel is still the best way to do this.

II. Text

- A. Verse 8: The Setting
- B. Verses 9-12: The Messenger and Message
- C. Verses 13-14: The Response from the population of heaven
- D. Verses 15-18: The Actions of Obedience and Uncertainty
- E. Verse 19: Mary pondered
- F. Verse 20: the shepherds returned to work, but were changed

III. Points

- A. A Natural Fear
 - 1. This sacred message was first delivered to a group of lowly Shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night.
 - a) They were prepared for predators and thieves, for protection and care, but were they prepared for this?
 - b) Angels appeared and proclaimed truth in the most spectacular way!
 - (1) Don't lose the wonder of this story because of familiarity
 - (2) This would have been a MAJESTIC appearing and announcement
 - 2. When God announces His presence or plan in your life, there is a natural fear because He is GOD, sovereign over all.
 - 3. We have grown comfortable in our physical world, forgetting God can interject Himself into our plan whenever He deems necessary.
- B. A Supernatural Encounter
 - 1. The heavens opened up and the message was sent in a supernatural way
 - 2. The GLORY OF THE LORD shown around them!
 - a) The Message was delivered supernaturally
 - b) The praise of heaven was supernatural
 - c) It was a long awaited eruption of praise for the messiah had come!

3. And on earth with those with whom He is pleased:
 - a) Pleased: eudokia: good think or please: well pleasing
 - b) Glory on earth for those who are pleasing to Him
 - c) The glory of God is seen in the response of humanity in worship.
 4. When you encounter God, you leave changed, and the response is supernatural.
- C. A Supernatural Response
1. The hosts proclaimed:
 - a) Glory to God in the Highest:
 - (1) Highest praise
 - (2) Highest worship
 - b) Peace on earth for those with whom He is pleased:
 - (1) The only way to be pleasing to God is in obedience
 - (2) Peace comes only in obedience:
 - (a) Obedience is the supernatural response to a supernatural relationship
 - (b) Obedience to believe in messiah
 - (c) Obedience to serve as gifted
 - (d) Let me say, before I attempt to speak to you on this subject, that I believe the man who lives so as to please God makes the very best possible out of his life, both in its relation to the life that now is and the life that is to come. He not only lays up treasure in Heaven, but he secures treasure on Earth. The life that is lived for God is not only a holy life, it is a happy life quite apart from anything we are going to get when we get beyond the River. God manifests Himself in a way to those who live for Him that more than repays for any sacrifice or suffering that may be entailed. P.W. Philpott, 1921 (Rev. Peter W. Philpott, D.D. was Senior Pastor of The Moody Church from 1922 to 1929.)
 2. Glory was just revealed, the response was to Go.
 3. The Shepherds were physically moved to go find the baby, the long awaited messiah.
 4. They went to see, then they went and spread the word: Shepherds made known what had been told to them.

IV. Close

- A. The Lord's Supper
- B. In the Lord's supper, we have a natural fear, and supernatural encounter, and a supernatural response
- C. [1Co 11:23-34 ESV] 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another-- 34 if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.
- D. Take the supper because you are ordered to by God
- E. Take the supper as a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus that died to save you

- F. Take the supper to join in with all those who looked to the coming of Jesus then, and do now.
- G. Take the supper and declare His sacrificial death until He comes!