



### Lesson 3: SHEPHERDS – active faith (Luke 2:8-18)

Of all the characters in the Christmas story - King Herod, the wisemen, Joseph, and Mary – there is one group that stands out because of just how *ordinary* they appear to be. That group is the shepherds. They were ordinary men and yet they received the most glorious announcement the world has ever heard and they received it from the lips of angels.

There are 66 different books in the Bible and \_\_\_ of them introduce us to the majestic angels. \_\_\_ times the Old Testament speaks of angels and \_\_\_ times the New Testament speaks of angels. In each case the angels are portrayed as glorious messengers of an even more glorious message. Here in Luke 2 they are discovered appearing to lowly shepherds. This message given to humble shepherds is the most significant message in the history of the world.

Luke 2 outlines for us three reasons why this message is so significant.

### THE MESSAGE TO THE SHEPHERDS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF ITS \_\_\_\_\_

*“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.”*

#### A. The message was a lesson in \_\_\_\_\_ theology (*“Fear not”*)

The message of Scripture has always been one of \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus Christ himself said *“fear not”* \_\_\_ times. In fact, the Scriptures tell us \_\_\_ different times not to fear.

#### B. The message was a lesson in \_\_\_\_\_ theology (*“which shall be to all people”*)

The angels declare what has previously been a mystery. There had been \_\_\_\_\_ silent years from Malachi to Matthew. Those years were broken now by this ambassador from heaven as he declared his message from God to these lowly shepherds. God has reached out from heaven and proclaimed His good news to a dying world.

#### C. The message was a lesson in \_\_\_\_\_ theology (*“Glory to God”*)

Both the shepherds and the angels respond in this passage with triumphant \_\_\_\_\_. The only proper response to the majestic news of Christ’s birth is praise!

### THE MESSAGE TO THE SHEPHERDS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF ITS \_\_\_\_\_

*“Which shall be to ALL people”*

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of this message

The shepherds were not viewed highly by the people in that day. They were considered \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When I see the two words *“all people”* I like to think of the shepherds. Little insignificant nobodies who received the most important message the world had ever heard!

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of this message

The shepherds discredited neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_. They responded as one can only do when confronted with this glorious news – they went to go and worship their King!

### THE MESSAGE TO THE SHEPHERDS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF ITS \_\_\_\_\_

*“For unto you is born this day a Savior.”*

It is the content of this message that makes it the most remarkable announcement this world has ever known. It is a message of fulfilled prophecy. *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David.”* \_\_\_\_\_ had prophesied of this day.

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little ... yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that it to be ruler in Israel.”*

The content of this message turned the world upside down!

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Here is an announcement we can never forget! We can never forget it because ...

- 1) *Its intent takes away the \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart.*
- 2) *Its extent reaches to all \_\_\_\_\_.*
- 3) *Its content tells us a \_\_\_\_\_ is born.*