

December 24, 2023

Bringing Joy and Peace Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. Luke Chapter 2 gives us the account of the Shepherds being visited by the angels. They are frightened at first but are told that Jesus will bring great joy and peace. Sometimes in the busyness of the Christmas season it is easy to forget the joy and peace that Jesus brings. Join us this Christmas Eve as we look at the offer of joy and peace that comes from Jesus.



The Census and the Birth of Jesus

2 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. **2** This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** Everyone went to his own town to be registered. **4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds' Visit

8 Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: **11** Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. **17** When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, **18** and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said. **19** But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. **20** So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

① EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. Why were the shepherds in the field?
2. Why were the shepherds afraid?
3. What did the angels say Jesus would bring?
4. Looking at your answer for number 3, how will Jesus bring these things?
5. Why do you think the Shepherds went to Bethlehem?
6. What about the shepherds story do you think astonished all who heard it?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

7. How does Jesus bring joy to your life?

8. How does Jesus bring you peace?

9. What do you think is the main idea of this passage?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes