

ADVENT: GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY!

LUKE 2:1-21

A Humble Birth (v.1-7)

In a nowhere place to nobody parents the Son of God came into this world.

“On that cold day when the expectant parents arrived, nothing at all was available, not even one of those crude stalls. And despite the urgency, no one would make room for them. So it was probable in the common courtyard where the travelers’ animals were tethered that Mary gave birth to Jesus, with Joseph only attending her. Joseph probably wept as much as Mary did. Seeing her pain, the stinking barnyard, their poverty, people’s indifference, the humiliation, and the sense of utter helplessness, feeling shame at not being able to provide for young Mary on the night of her travail – all that would make a man either curse or cry.” – R. Kent Hughes

- **In all of this, the birth of Christ is evidence that we can _____ . He keeps His _____ !**

God is in control of these events as He is in control of everything. He does what He says He will do. God can be believed and we can rest assured.

MICAH 5:2; ISAIAH 9:1-7

A Glorious Announcement (v.8-21)

These shepherds are ordinary men. Considered in Jewish culture to be unclean, just above lepers in regards to social order. But God, in His grace, announces the birth of the Son of God in all this glory to them.

- **The Shepherds obediently do what God tells them through the angels, and they go from being filled with _____ to _____ and _____. They saw God’s faithfulness with their own eyes and they were changed forever!**
- **The Savior is for _____. And, the Savior is for _____!**

This Gospel message is for everyone and it is for you!

“It is not enough to hear about Jesus. It is not enough to peek in the manger and say, ‘Oh, how nice. What a lovely scene. It gives me such good feelings.’ The truth is, even if Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times but not within you, you would be eternally lost. The Christ who was born into the world must be born in your heart. Religious sentiment, even at Christmastime, without the living Christ is a yellow brick road to darkness.” – R. Kent Hughes

- **Like Mary and the shepherds, this Good News (Gospel) demands _____ from us. We must _____. We must _____. We must _____!**

And just as the heavens rejoice in the coming of the Son of God, so should we!

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- **In all of this, the birth of Christ is evidence that we can take God at His word. He keeps His promises!**

God is in control of these events as He is in control of everything. He does what He says He will do. God can be believed and we can rest assured.

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These shepherds are ordinary men. Considered in Jewish culture to be unclean, just above lepers in regards to social order. But God, in His grace, announces the birth of the Son of God in all this glory to them.

- **The Shepherds obediently do what God tells them through the angels, and they go from being filled with great fear to glorifying and praising God. They saw God’s faithfulness with their own eyes and they were changed forever!**
- **The Savior is for all people. And, the Savior is for YOU!**

This Gospel message is for everyone and it is for you!

“It is not enough to hear about Jesus. It is not enough to peek in the manger and say, ‘Oh, how nice. What a lovely scene. It gives me such good feelings.’ The truth is, even if Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times but not within you, you would be eternally lost. The Christ who was born into the world must be born in your heart. Religious sentiment, even at Christmastime, without the living Christ is a yellow brick road to darkness.” – R. Kent Hughes

- **Like Mary and the shepherds, this Good News (Gospel) demands a response from us. We must believe it. We must treasure it. We must tell it!**

And just as the heavens rejoice in the coming of the Son of God, so should we!