



“The Joy of the Shepherds”

📖 Luke 1:52-53 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. NIV

📖 Psalms 69:32a The poor will see and be glad. NIV

📖 Psalms 112:9a He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor. NIV

📖 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 “Think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things— and the things that are not— to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God— that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.’” NIV


What was the nature of the shepherd’s joy?

1- The Joy of Receiving _____

A real experience of God’s grace will fill a heart with great joy.


📖 Luke 2:8-14 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.” 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 men on whom His favor rests.” NIV

2- The Joy of Worshipping

 **Luke 2:15-16** 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.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. NIV

True worship is the joyful response of believers to God’s grace, mercy and gifts poured out on the world through His Son.


 **Psalm 51:12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. NIV


 **Psalm 100** Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. NIV



3- The Joy of Sharing

A joy kept to yourself isn’t nearly as powerful as a joy shared.

 **Luke 2:17-18,20** 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. . . . The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. NIV

 **1 Thessalonians 5:16** Be joyful always. NIV

Join us at Zion **December 21** at **7pm** for the blockbuster movie:

“The Nativity Story”

Blanks: 1- God’s grace, 2- God’s Son, 3- God’s good news .