

Faith Baptist Church

Sermon Notes - Sunday, December 26, 2021

Hope is Here

Luke 2:1-20

The Announcement of Jesus' Birth-

Scriptures record that Mary, after giving birth to Jesus, wrapped Him in cloth and placed Him in a manger. That same night, an angel appeared to shepherds who were out in the nearby fields keeping watch over their flocks. The sight of the angel bathed in God's glory terrified the shepherds, but the angel told them not to be afraid. "I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." The angle declared that a Savior- the Messiah- had been born that day in Bethlehem (King David's ancestral city).

The angle told the Shepherds that they would find a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger. Then suddenly more angels appeared and were praising God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

After the angels left, the shepherds went into Bethlehem to see the baby. They found Mary and Joseph and Jesus, and they spread the word about what they had heard and seen. Everyone who listened to them were amazed. The shepherds returned to the fields praising God, and Mary treasured these things in her heart.

Four Central Truths:

1. The Christmas message is _____ for all _____.
2. The Christmas message is that _____ is the one _____ by _____ to be the _____ of the _____.
3. The Christmas message is wrapped in both the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

4. The Christmas message demands a _____.

Additional Bible Passages to Reference:

Titus 2:11; Galatians 4:4; John 1:14, 10:1-18, 3:16; Acts 16:31; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Isaiah 7:14

For Personal Reflection:

1. Why do you think God chose for Jesus to be born in such an out-of-the-way, humble setting? What does this tell us about God's plan?
2. What does Immanuel mean? In what ways does this name for Jesus describe Him, and what is the significance for us?
3. How is the Christmas story a demonstration of God's great love for you?
4. When Jesus was born, to whom did the angels first announce the good news? What were the shepherds doing? Why do you think God chose to tell them first? What's symbolic about God announcing Jesus' birth to some of the lowliest members of society? What did the angels specifically tell the shepherds in Luke 2:10?
5. Why was this birth considered "good news"? How did the shepherds respond to the angel's good news? Who did they tell? In what ways is the response of the shepherds a good example for us?
6. What does the birth of Jesus show us about God's faithfulness in keeping His Word? What does it show us about His compassion for us?
7. The Christmas message is good news! Have you personally responded to the good news of the Messiah by accepting Jesus Christ into your own heart?
8. Who can you share this good news with today? Make a list of people who have not yet accepted Christ and pray for them by name. Ask God to give you opportunities to share your own faith story.