

*The Angels of Christmas*

HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT

**SERMON NOTES**

Week 4 December 18, 2022

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Luke 2:1-12, 15-20

**I. The Birth of Jesus**

- A. While she was nine months pregnant, Mary and Joseph had to go from Nazareth to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be counted for the census.
- B. There was no room in Joseph's parents \_\_\_\_\_ room because many of his descendants were back in town.
- C. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a feeding trough that the animals would eat from.

**II. Shepherds in the Fields**

- A. Shepherding was common throughout biblical times and we see this imagery of \_\_\_\_\_ and sheep throughout the Old Testament.
- B. In John 10, \_\_\_\_\_ calls himself the good shepherd.
- C. In first century Palestine, shepherds were at the \_\_\_\_\_ end of the socioeconomic ladder.

**III. Lessons from the Angels' Visit to the Shepherds**

- A. God chooses, uses, and has a heart for the lowly and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- C. The shepherds story demonstrates the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Christian life.
- D. What we truly \_\_\_\_\_ for is found in the manger.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 19-24, 2022*

## INTRODUCTION

In the ninth month of her pregnancy, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth. While in Bethlehem, Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable and lies him in a manger. After the birth of Jesus, Luke tells us that angels appear to shepherds in the fields to tell them the good news. Many people are familiar with this story; but what does it actually mean for us today?

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### Monday: Luke 2:7-9

Imagine you lived in first-century Israel and didn't know this story. Jerusalem's Temple housed the ruling Council (the "Sanhedrin") and many of the most revered Scripture experts. Would it shock you that God's announcement skipped those elite leaders... those who said they were waiting for the birth of the Savior? The news went to lowly shepherds a few miles away. How did that foreshadow the rulers' response to the grown-up Jesus (cf. Matthew 26:57-67)? How did it show God's values?

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### Tuesday: Luke 2:8-11

We're used to the words, "He is Christ the Lord." The shepherds (or any other Israelite) wouldn't have dreamed those words fit a newborn baby. "Christ means *anointed one* in Greek, a translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*. the *Lord*: Normally an address for God, *Lord* here indicates Jesus' divine origins (see Luke 1:43, 5:17; 10:40-42)." With no Christmas lights or ornaments anywhere, how did those stunning divine titles tell the shepherds this birth was a big deal?

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### Wednesday: Luke 2:12-14

As heavenly angels offer praise to God, they also announce peace for humans, whom God blesses; this includes 'all people' who accept this baby's birth as 'wonderful, joyous news' (Luke 2:10). In what ways has the baby born in Bethlehem brought greater peace into your life? Are there parts of life where you'd like to internalize that God-given peace more fully?

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### Thursday: Luke 2:15-20

Pastor Bruce Larson wrote, "[Verse 20] says that after the shepherds had seen such wondrous things they went back to the commonplace." That's true for us each year at Christmas as we celebrate these events. Where will we be when the excitement and fun are over? How do these events change the lives we lead back at our jobs, our homes, our schools?" How will the wondrous news of Christmas change your day-to-day life for the better in 2023?

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### Friday: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20

This is the Christmas story in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel. What stands out to you?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The angels' visit to the shepherds tells us something about God, something about Jesus, and something about ourselves. We learn that God has a heart for the lowly and humble. Jesus is our Lord and savior as proclaimed by the angels. And like the shepherds we are to go and spread the good news. We also learn that what we truly hunger for in life is found in the manger.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Bethlehem, B) guest, C) manger. IIA) shepherd, B) Jesus, IIC) lower. IIIA) humble, B) angels, C) rhythm, D) hunger.*