

THE REASON IS JOY
Season's Reasons – Part 2
December 14, 2025

Luke 2:8-9 (NIV) *“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”*

Psalms 100:3 (NIV) *“Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.”*

In The New Testament Shepherds Were...

- **Considered ceremonially unclean.**
- **Isolated and forgotten.**
- **Treated with contempt and mistrust.**
- **Known to be brash and bold.**

God entrusted the greatest message ever sent from heaven to a bunch of smelly shepherds. We don't know any of their names... and no adjectives are used to describe them.

Luke 1:52 (NIV) *“He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.”*

Humble - Completely dependent on God

The Shepherds help us see that everyone matters to God.

CONTEMPORARY LESSONS FROM THESE SHEPHERDS

1. Be attentive to what God has called you to do.

Luke 2:8 (NCV) *“That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.”*

John 10:9 (NIV) *“I Am the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”*

2. Live in awe of God's message to you.

Luke 2:9 (NIV) *“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”*

Luke 5:8 (NIV) *“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’”*

God meets us where we are but then He brings us to our knees.

3. Simply accept the gift of good news.

Luke 2:10-12 (NIV) *"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*

¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) *"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe."*

4. Take action on what you know to be true.

Luke 2:15-16 (NIV) *"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.'*

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."

James 2:17 (NIV) *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

Action Steps

The shepherds went and saw.

John 1:29 (NIV) *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

The shepherds left and shared.

Luke 2:17 (NIV) *"When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child."*

5. Seek to adore Immanuel 24/7.

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

Once you accept the "Good News of Great Joy," you may return to the same place tomorrow... but not as the same person!

Luke 2:11 (NIV) *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*

Corrie ten Boom

"If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost."

Christmas is real history, but it must become your story as well!