

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: DECEMBER 25, 2022

The Humble and Majestic Beginnings of the Gospel Luke 2:1-20

The Eternal King Enters Humanity in the Humblest of Ways (vv. 2:1-7)

Luke 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

News of the Eternal King Comes First to a Most Unexpected Group (vv. 2:8-20)

1. A heavenly messenger announces the *gospel*. (vv. 8-10)

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

2. The angel explains the content of the *gospel*; the Messiah has been born. (vv. 11-14)

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

3. The shepherds respond to the *gospel* with urgent expectancy. (vv. 15-16)

Luke 2:15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

4. The shepherds proclaim the *gospel* with joy and worship. (vv. 17-20)

Luke 2:17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection & Discussion

1. Reflect on the 3 different responses to the shepherd's experience shown in verses 18-20. These are all appropriate responses to the beauty of the gospel. As you contemplate the birth of the Savior, what group do you most identify with, and why?
2. Who will you proclaim the gospel to today? Prayerfully seek the Lord for opportunity and favor.

SONGS

"ANGELS FROM THE REALM OF GLORY" – James Montgomery

"GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" – John Wesley Work Jr.

"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" – John Francis Wade, Frederick Oakeley

"KING OF KINGS" – Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, and Scott Ligertwood

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 36,206.00

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,776,806.39

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,840,743.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS

EXPANSION FUND: \$ 35,975.00

Note: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!