

An Angel Came to the Shepherds

(Luke 2:1-21)

WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO:

- God used shepherds to bear faithful witness to the greatest news ever announced; we, too, should react in faith, pursue the Christ child, and bear witness to others about God's plan of salvation.

GOD SENT HIS SON IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME:

1. A time of divine INTERVENTION (v. 1–5)
2. A time of MIRACULOUS fulfillment (v. 6–7)
3. A time of great ANNOUNCEMENT (v. 8–14)
4. A time of human DECISION (v. 15–17)
5. A time of faithful OBEDIENCE (v. 18–21)

APPLICATION:

- ✓ Friend, is Jesus Christ *your* Lord and Savior? Can *you* tell others that *you* are a sinner saved by the grace of God? Heaven has visited the earth! Has this truth made a difference in *you*? Or is Christmas time just a time of tinsel, tradition, and toys?
- ✓ God did not make it easier for Joseph and Mary, but He protected them both. All that touches your life must pass through the will of God too. Do you live daily by faith, trusting that God is in charge?
- ✓ The shepherds told everyone what they had heard and seen. Often people who try to tell all that they know are politely avoided. But in the shepherds' case, people listened, because:
 - Shepherds were not supposed to know much, and these shepherds had startling information.
 - The message was revolutionary; It changed listeners' lives.
 - The shepherds spoke from the heart, and their words connected to the deepest needs of others.
- ✓ When you talk about Jesus with others, tell the story of God in your life. You don't need to embellish, but don't hold back either. God can use His faithful to change the world.