

Series: Joy to the World (Advent) V

Text: Luke 2:1-21

HI: The Lord of glory was born a baby.

Title: *The News that Lit the Night*

Hook: Nativity

Date: 12.24.22

Purpose: To call the listener to respond to the remarkable news of a Savior born 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem.

FCF: Like Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, we live our lives in ordinary circumstances. God's grace and glory break in at the most unexpected time in the most unimaginable place to bring salvation through His Son.

COR: To all appearances, this humble birth should have passed without notice as less than a footnote in history. Yet all of history pivots on this birth in a manger and this news from a hillside.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: He came in weakness though his mission was glorious.

Apologetic: "Wondered" in v. 18: lay down the gauntlet of the Christian claim of the incarnation

Form: Inductive

Outline:

I. This birth is down-to-earth. (1-7)

A. This reads like a rather ordinary story. (1-5)

B. These are humble beginnings. (6-7)

II. This child is straight from heaven. (8-14)

A. This story just took a turn away from ordinary. (8-9)

B. These are glorious claims. (10-14)

III. This news lights up the night. (15-21)

Main Idea:

Subject: What is the connection between the baby in the manger and the shepherds on the hillside?

Complement: The Lord of glory.

Exegetical Idea: The Lord of glory connects the baby in the manger to the shepherds on the hillside.

Theological Idea: The baby born in the manger is the Lord of glory.

Homiletical Idea: The Lord of glory was born a baby.

Introduction:

Nativity = the occasion of birth

READ Luke 2:1-5

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.

I. This birth is down-to-earth. (1-7)

READ vv. 6-7

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.

ILL: [PIC: Nativity Set]

READ Luke 2:8-14

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.

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!"

II. This child is straight from heaven. (8-14)

Christ= messiah, the chosen one

Lord = ruler

READ Luke 2:15-21

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.

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.

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Lk. 2:1-21)

III. This news lights up the night. (15-21)

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