

Jesus ...

Our Joy in This Season

- **John 15:11, These things I (Jesus) have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

- Not human emotion
- Abiding relationship with Jesus
- Our joy rooted in His joy

- **Biblical joy** is “a deep, steady, and unshakable gladness in God that is rooted in His character, His presence, and His promises ... regardless of circumstances.”
- **Biblical joy** is “not the same as happiness. Happiness is emotional and situational.”
- **Biblical joy** is “spiritual and relational. It flows from **who God is**, not what is happening around you.”

- **Luke, 2:10b, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.**
- **good tidings** is “to proclaim good news, to preach the gospel”
- **great joy** is “exceedingly abundant joy”
- **To all** means “without exclusion”
- **people** “Israel, in **Luke 2:32** through the words “**a light for the Gentiles**” we see this message expands far beyond Israel”

- **Luke 2:8-9**

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

- Arrival in ordinary places and to ordinary people...

- **¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.**
- **Behold “look, see, pay close attention”**
- **Do not be afraid.... look, see, pay close attention to the arrival of the good news of great joy ...**

- **¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**
- **This is the good news of Jesus' - His arrival...**

- **¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”**
- His arrival is not found in royal displays of wealth and prestige, but in divine humility...

- **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, goodwill toward men!”**
- **Glory to God in the highest** “proclaiming His great worth in the highest heavenly realms”
- **Goodwill** “God’s favor”
- Jesus’ arrival means reconciliation between God and humanity, with humanity experiencing God’s favor.

What do we see in Jesus' arrival?

- Arrival in ordinary places and to ordinary people...
- Do not be afraid.... look, see, pay close attention to the arrival of the **good news of great joy ...**
- This is the **good news** of Jesus' - His arrival...
- His arrival is not found in royal displays of wealth and prestige, but in divine humility... a baby born in a manger
- Jesus' arrival means reconciliation between God and humanity, with humanity experiencing God's favor.

- **¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.**
- **Let us go straight - “immediate response”**
- **came with haste- “immediate obedience with eager response”**

- **¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.**
- testified to many of Jesus
- **¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.**
- those who heard the testimonies, were amazed

- **²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.**
- Same fields, same responsibilities
- Went back to their ordinary life, carrying extraordinary joy...

How do we respond to Jesus' arrival? - Shepherds

- **Pay attention** to where God is showing up
- **Respond without delay** when He invites us to move
- **Carry the story of Jesus with us** into our ordinary places
- Jesus ... **“that My joy may be in you, that your joy may be full.”**