Faithful to the Father
Luke 2:8-20

Faithfully Steward God's Purpose
8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Proximity to God's Purpose
- Being in the same country allowed them to fulfill the angel's command and return to their responsibilities without jeopardizing their flock.
- Abiding is a continuous action, meaning the shepherds were active in their work.
- Their work in the field signifies their willingness to labor in the environment. Throughout Scripture, God uses those who are working.
- The shepherds keeping watch over their flock shows they were actively fulfilling their responsibilities.
- Nighttime work can be dangerous, as predators are on the move then. It takes courage to work through the difficult seasons.
    - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 – **26** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: **27** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; **28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: **29** That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Presentation of God's Purpose
- The angel of the Lord did more than appear far away in the sky.
- God is personal and comes alongside us.
    - Acts 12:7 – And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.
- The glory of the Lord is undeniable.
    - Acts 22:11 – And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.
- Though God's presence can be startling, when we acknowledge it, we recognize the message for us and the mission for us.

Matthew 17:5-8 –

Promise in God's Purpose
- God gave His Son for us. "unto you is born this day"
    - John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- The promised delivery of Jesus provides a Savior for the forgiveness of sin.

    - Acts 5:31 – Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
- The promised delivery of Jesus provides the Christ, who is the Son of God.
    - Matthew 16:16 – And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- The promised delivery of Jesus provides the Lord, who is over all.
    - John 1:3 – All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
    - Philippians 2:11 – And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- The angel's message encouraged the shepherds to seek the Savior if they were to find Him. “Ye shall find”
- God's promises require obedience for deliverance.

Faithfully Sing God’s Praise
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, Good will toward men.

The Host Singing God’s Praise
- After the angel brought a message, a host, or army, of angels followed with music.
- The multitude of angels accompanied the angel delivering the message, which turned the pasture into an open-air concert.

The Honor of Singing God’s Praise
- Glory to God is high praise and honor towards God
    - Luke 19:38 – Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.
    - `Revelation 5:13 – And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.
- In the last section of this message, there is a variety of examples of how people express their praise to God.

The Hope in Singing God’s Praise
- Christ is the Prince of Peace, bringing peace to those who accept Him.
    - Isaiah 9:6 – For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- This peace is the reconciliation between God and man that can only be brought through the blood of the Lamb
    - Colossians 1:20 – And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.
- The song of the angels should be adopted by believers as we praise and honor His holy name for being the Way to the Father.
    - John 14:6 – Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Faithfully Share God's Presence/Presents

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Beth-lehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Action in Sharing God's Presence/Presents

- When the shepherds left the fields where they encountered the messengers, they went to see Jesus.
- The shepherds were not going to Bethlehem to waste time; rather, they were making the journey to witness the Truth.
- Faith is followed by obedience, and obedience discloses the many truths of Jesus.
    - Acts 1:3 – To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Adoration in Sharing God's Presence/Presents

- When the shepherds left the manger, they went to share what they had seen about Jesus.
- When the message of Jesus was solidified in their hearts, they shared it without adding to or taking away from it.
    - 2 Timothy 4:2 – Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- What if people talked about Jesus to others as much as they talked about others?

Acceptance after Sharing God's Presence/Presents

- When the shepherds left the mission, they went and sang about Jesus.
- Many people wondered in amazement about the message of Jesus, but never sought him individually.
- Mary pondered in her heart, amazed at Jesus. After all she had been through, she could finally begin to take it all in.
- The shepherds thundered with song about the amazement of Jesus. The impact of meeting Jesus does not fade when you return to your duties. However, that impact changes how you approach your responsibilities.
    - Jeremiah 29:11-13 – **11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **12** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
    - Matthew 15:31 – Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.