

Do Not Be Afraid (Luke 2:8-14)

December 23, 2018 | Don Logan

Luke 2:8-14 (AV/KJV).

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read the text from Luke 1:8-14. How do you feel when this text is read? What emotions are evoked, and why?
2. There are two key words in the text that the story is built upon. Both are objective truths primarily with accompanying feelings.
 - The Shepherds fear. Why is that an objective truth? How is it also a secondary emotion?
 - The angels heavenly offer of peace. Why is that an objective truth? How is that also a secondary emotion?
 - ◆ Take a minute to consider how these can be confused! Maybe we feel peaceful and we should not? Maybe we do not feel fear, and we should? Maybe we don't feel at peace and we are? Maybe we feel afraid, and we have nothing to fear?
 - ◆ Why is truth so important in mastering our emotions?
3. The only full, objective and absolute peace promised to us "on earth" is the end of warring with God. To be reconciled. "It is

finished."

- So every other type of peace is partial, subjective and relative. "Unfinished." Is that correct? How does that help us live correctly, and not be sidetracked into a social gospel, or political gospel, or a mystical gospel, or even a "humanity" gospel?

4. Have you made peace with God "on earth?"

- How would you know? How important is it that we receive the gift correctly? How important is our emotions in the process?

Note to leaders: Receiving grace may be immediate, but understanding and growing in our salvation is a life-long process. The purpose of these questions are to help explore and lead people correctly to discover truth, and probably not to resolve all the "issues."

5. Prayer and praise