

The Original “Come to Jesus Meeting”

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified,

¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

I. Reminders From the Shepherds

-They were tending to what would soon be replaced

Luke 22:20 After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

-They would be the recipients of the best news in all creation/time

“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

-They did not have much “worth”

-They would be invited to see Jesus

¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

-They were changed because of the encounter at the stable

¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

II. Reminders for us.

-We can never be too far gone to encounter Jesus

I Cor 12:27-28- Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world,^(a) things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.

“The moment Mary touched God’s face is the moment God made his case: There is no place he will not go. If he is willing to be born in a barnyard, then expect him to be at work anywhere—bars, bedrooms, boardrooms and brothels. No place is too common. No person is too hardened. No distance is too far. There is no person he cannot reach. There is no limit to his love. When Christ was born, so was our hope”
Max Lucado

-We can still be changed by an encounter with Jesus

Rom 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus will change our standing with the Father

Col 1:20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Jesus will change our current life

II Cor 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Jesus will change our destiny!

John 14:3- When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

-We have an invitation to encounter Jesus.

Acts 26: ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—"

²⁸ Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?"

Close:

"The night was ordinary no more. The angel came in the night because that is when lights are best seen and that is when they are most needed" Max Lucado