

BORN UNTO YOU—ADVENT 2022

“Born Unto You” | 12.24.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Luke 2:8-16)

II. (Luke 2:8-16)

- A. **Luke 2:8-14** *“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, and an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 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. For **THERE IS BORN TO YOU THIS DAY** in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with them a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.”*
1. Well, in keeping with the nativity story, it’s interesting how Luke shifts from POOR PARENTS, and a POOR BABY, BORN INTO A POOR HOME to the POOREST OF THE POOR, these SOCIETALLY REJECTED SHEPHERDS.
 2. In Jesus’ day, Shepherds had a rabbinical ban simply because they couldn’t leave the sheep to participate in temple, so, although they are Jewish, they’re alienated from the commonwealth of their own people.
 3. They were considered UNCLEAN, UNABLE TO TESTIFY IN COURT, NOT TRUSTWORTHY, and the sheep they led, THEY’RE ALSO KEPT OUTSIDE.
 4. And although many of their nights were spent alone, this night would be different. Tonight, no longer on the outs of life, it’s here that these shepherds are invited in.
 5. *“...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. For there is born to **YOU** this day, in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...”*
 6. Jesus has been BORN TO THEM. To the lowly, the marginalized, the overlooked, the societally rejected, the neglected.
 7. Luke is intentional in presenting the people of the nativity story in **Luke 2**. He starts at the top, and then work’s his way down:
 - a. Caesar Augustus Quirinius Joseph Mary Jesus
Shepherds
 8. **Luke 2:11** *“And this will be the sign to **YOU**; **YOU** will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger...”* My paraphrase is this, *“It’s just for you, theirs a King, He’s not in a palace, He’s not clothed in a purple robe, He’s not holding a scepter, and He’s not sitting inside 30k Burka bag. He’s wrapped in cloths, just like a normal baby, you can touch Him, you can handle Him, you can come near Him. What you haven’t been able to touch, something human, especially royalty, you can touch this One. That’s your sign friends.”*
 9. As I’ve said before, we certainly don’t need any more unhelpful songs like the Little Drummer Boy, assuming that if we play the song right, Jesus will like us. Jesus doesn’t need us, we need Him. When we couldn’t get to Him, He came to us.
 10. Beloved, we celebrate Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the Christmas season, not because it’s a peaceful place around the world, or because it’s a nice story to tell Children, or even because we give gifts. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus was joyful in His assignment of being a Savior.
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- B. **Luke 2:15-16** *“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. And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe laying in a manger.”*
1. It’s amazing to me how all the so called “*Big People*” of the nativity story didn’t budge to go see Israel’s King (Caesar Augustus, Herod, Quirinius, the Chief Priests and the Scribes. But all the so called “*Little People*” of the Nativity story, like Joseph and Mary, Zacharias and Elizabeth, the Wise Men and the shepherds, fully disrupted their lives to be with Him.
- C. **Matthew 2:1-6** *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him. When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they (the Chief Priests) said to him, in Bethlehem of Judea, for this it is written by the prophet: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come Ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel.”*
1. According to **Matthew 2:1-6**, the Chief Priests knew the prophecy from **Micah 5:2** which stated that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. And after they told Herod, he now knew.
 2. We also learned that Herod was in Jerusalem when he asked the Chief Priests about the prophecy. Do you know the distance between Jerusalem, and Bethlehem? It’s 5 miles.
 3. Herod, and the religious leaders of **Matthew 2:1-6** knew the prophecy from **Micah 5:2**, but they weren’t willing to take a 5-mile journey, to see some 4,000+ years of prophecy fulfilled.
- D. Beloved, He’s been born you, to us, to the people around us. Those who sit in darkness, have seen a great light.
- E. On this Christmas Eve, what do you need to do, to go and see the Babe, the Babe born unto you, wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger?
- F. How are you responding to the Lord in this season? How are you disrupting your norm so that you can go after the Lord? What 5-mile journey do you need to take to see the will of God come to pass?
- G. Will you follow in the footsteps of Zacharias and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, and the Shepherds and disrupt your life to see the King?