

Christmas Outside the Box: Expect the Unexpected

Christmas for the Bored Stiff

Luke 2:8-18

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!’ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” **Luke 2:8-18**

Main Idea: Get Ready: God Deserves Your Full Attention

Three Reasons I should Get Ready...

I. God will Interrupt My Christmas Season

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, & the glory of the Lord shone around them, & they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths & lying in a manger.’” **Lk 2:8-12**

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” **Psalms 23**

“I am the good shepherd...” **John 10:11 (Jesus)**

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” **1 Peter 5:4**

II. God wants to Fill in the Gaps of My Christmas Celebration

“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 among those with whom he is pleased!’” **Lk 2:13-14**

“It is a lovely thought that the minstrelsy of heaven took the place of the minstrelsy of earth, & angels sang the songs for Jesus that the earthly singers could not sing.” **William Barclay**

The Angels Praised God...

- **In the Past at Creation:** “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth...when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” **Job 38:4a, 7**
- **In the Present around the Throne:** “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’” **Is 6:3**

- **Anytime a Sinner Repents:** “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” **Luke 15:10**
- **Forever and Ever:** “And I heard every creature in heaven & on earth & under the earth & in the sea, & all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne & to the Lamb be blessing & honor & glory & might forever & ever!’” **Revelation 5:13**

“What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

III. God Invites Me to Lean In to His Story this Christmas

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.” **Luke 2:15-16**

“These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate today. They received by faith the message God sent them & then responded with immediate obedience.” **Warren Wiersbe**

IV. God Calls Me to Share His Story with the World

“And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” **Luke 2:17-18**

Time: The Greeks had two words for time. The New Testament was originally written in Greek, so it uses both of them...

- **Chronos** – Sequence of events. Linear & quantitative.
- **Kairos** – Opportunity, appointed time. Nonlinear & qualitative.

“But when the fullness of time (chronos) had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” **Galatians 4:4-5**

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time (Kairos) is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent & believe in the gospel.’” **Mark 1:14b-15**

“Behold, now is the favorable time (kairos); behold, now is the day of salvation.” **2 Cor 6:2b**

If you’re stuck in your routine this Christmas, Get Ready! God will turn your bored, Christmas season into a special moment of divine opportunity as you turn your attention to His Son!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Strong’s Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *New Bible Commentary* – Carson, France, Motyer & Wenham (1994)
- *Holman Old Testament Commentary* – Max Anders (2004)
- *New American Commentary: Luke* – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Wilmington’s Bible Handbook* – Harold Wilmington (1997)

