

Christmas at the Movies

Christmas Hope

Luke 2:8-20

“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 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.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God & saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, & 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 & see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste & found Mary & Joseph, & 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. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying & praising God for all they had heard & seen, as it had been told them” **Luke 2:8-20**

Main Idea: Christmas Celebrates Hope that has Come to All Mankind!

I. Christmas Hope is Found in Unusual Places

“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 I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” **Luke 2:8-10**

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low & despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” **1**

Corinthians 1:27-29

II. Christmas Hope Brings an Unexpected Message

“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.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God & saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, & on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’”

Luke 2:11-14

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, & his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9:2, 6**

III. **Christmas Hope Calls for Impulsive Action** – *“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem & see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste & found Mary & Joseph, & 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. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying & praising God for all they had heard & seen, as it had been told them”* **Luke 2:15-20**

The scripture tells us that the shepherds acted on several levels:

- **They Went:** Hurried off to Bethlehem to see this amazing thing!
- **They Shared:** Everyone they met heard about this amazing thing!
- **They Worshipped:** Thanked & praised God for this amazing thing!

It’s a Wonderful Life: In the movie, we learn that life is valuable and hope is important because of relationships with others. Wife, kids, friends & neighbors! When George was facing prison time & scandal, his family put the word out that he was in trouble. Friends far and near came around..

“No man is a failure who has friends.” **Clarence Odbody**

The shepherds returned from Bethlehem, not with a mere wonderful life, but with an everlasting life that only Jesus could provide. They enjoyed God’s favor, celebrated His love & treasured His hope!

Invitation: If you are struggling with hopelessness this Christmas season, let me point you to Jesus. For the lost...come! Experience eternal life. For the saved...let’s worship the baby in Bethlehem & experience the hope He provides!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *NAC Series: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Expository Outlines in the NT* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *Holman NT Commentary* – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *It’s A Wonderful Life* – Liberty Films (1946)