

Tis the Season
To Be Missional
Luke 2:15-18

Today, we will see that celebrating the birth of Jesus requires us to consider the mission of Jesus.

On the Worst Day in History: *“The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’”* **Genesis 3:14-15**

We must understand the reason Jesus came to properly celebrate his birth!

“....The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil....and we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

1 John 3:8, 4:14 – **Jesus’s Birth was His Arrival on Mission to Save the World**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:16-17

Trans: We see the words Peace, Joy, Hope, and many others every year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But we can’t afford to forget about MISSION!!! Jesus came to earth on MISSION and celebrating his birth requires us to be MISSIONAL!

Main Idea: The Birth of Jesus Calls us to Embrace His Mission

“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 2:15-18**

Tis the Season to Embrace Jesus’ Mission in Three Ways from Luke 2:15-18

I. Receive the Good News - Luke 2:15

The shepherds received the good news shared with them by the angels. We know they received it, based on how they responded to it (next point). They could have rejected it outright, dismissed it as a dream/nightmare or ignored it altogether. We have the same options when we hear the good news...

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” **Romans 1:16 – Gospel=Good News**

You never know how someone is going to respond. They may refuse to hear, or walk away, or argue with you, or hear you out, or even receive it! –**What will you do?**

Christmas is not only about a baby in a manger, hope, and peace. It is a recognition and celebration of the mission his birth initiated...to seek and save!

“The fact of the child was news. The function of the child was gospel.” **Trent Butler**

II. Respond to the Good News - Luke 2:16

The shepherds not only received the good news; they responded to it. We are not saved by simply receiving the gospel, but by responding in repentance & faith!

“And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.” **Luke 2:16**

“....Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”

Mark 1:14-15

“The fact of the child was news. The function of the child was gospel. Shepherds found in a manger the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord himself.” **Trent Butler**

Don’t just be reminded of the story of the birth of Jesus, instead respond to it in surrender to Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil by saving people just like you and me.

III. Retell the Good News - Luke 2:17-18

The shepherds could not keep the good news to themselves, so they shared it openly!

“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 2:15-17 – When you get good news, it must be shared!**

Note: Angelic announcements are very rare in the Scripture. Usually people who have RECEIVED and RESPONDED to the good news RETELL it over and over again!

“They took the place of the angels....shepherds were not permitted to testify in court, but God used some humble shepherds to be the first human witnesses that prophecy had been fulfilled. And the Messiah had been born. The angels have never experienced the grace of God, so they can’t bear witness as we can.”

Warren Wiersbe

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” **Isaiah 52:7**

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of

whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" **Romans 10:13-15 – Will You Hear?**

We flesh out this reality **individually** (sharing the gospel with friends, family, coworkers, neighbors) and as a **church** (outreach events, FTC efforts), both in the way we **go** with our feet, **pray** with our hearts, and **give** with our resources (That ALL may CALL Initiative). Why?

Main Idea: The Birth of Jesus Calls us to Embrace His Mission

You are called from making Christmas all about YOU, your children, parties, gifts, travel, bonuses or whatever may distract you from the real significance of the birth of Jesus...He came on mission!

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means God with us)." Matthew 1:21-23

Have You **Received** the Good News? Have you **Responded** to the Good News by repentance, faith and surrender? Will you **Retell** the Good News individually and corporately, by sharing, praying and giving?

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax (2017)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- God the Son Incarnate: The Doctrine of Christ – Stephen J. Wellum (2016)
- The Gospel of Luke – William Barclay (1975)
- New American Commentary: Luke – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- Holman NT Commentary: Luke – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Tony Evans Study Bible – Tony Evans (2019)
- Tyndale Bible Dictionary – Walter Elwell (2001)