



GRACE APPEARED
“God’s Gift in the Manger”

Luke 2:1–20

INTRODUCTION - GRACE and MERCY

- **Mercy** is God *not giving us the punishment we deserve.*
- **Grace** is God *giving us blessings we do not deserve.*

1. Mercy: Withheld Judgment - *Ephesians 2:4; Psalm 103:8; Hebrews 4:16*

- **Mercy:** God’s compassion that withholds judgment

2. Grace: Undeserved Favor - *Ephesians 2:8; John 1:16; 2 Corinthians 12:9*

- **Grace:** God’s favor that bestows blessing

Grace is not just something God gives — grace is Someone God sent.

MAIN IDEA

At Bethlehem, grace took on flesh — the infinite God became a helpless baby to save helpless sinners.

Remember...

Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to constantly apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Tim. 4:7-9; Jam 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:
How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
How can I accomplish this change?
What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

I. GRACE CAME IN HUMILITY (vv. 6–7)

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger...”

A. God’s grace entered the world quietly — the King of Heaven arrived without fanfare.

B. Grace identifies with the lowly — Jesus came among the ordinary.

C. Grace meets us where we are — even in the simplest places.

II. GRACE ANNOUNCED TO THE LOWLY (vv. 8–14)

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field...”

A. God’s announcement bypassed the powerful — *shepherds received heaven’s news.*

B. God’s message brings great joy — *‘good news of great joy for all the people.’*

C. God’s glory and peace unite in Christ — *only Jesus brings peace with God.*

III. GRACE MOVES US TO WORSHIP AND WITNESS (vv. 15–20)

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God...”

A. Grace moves us to seek Christ — *the shepherds “went with haste.”*

B. Grace turns witnesses into worshipers — *they could not keep silent.*

C. Grace leads to contemplation — *Mary treasured and pondered.*

D. Grace ends in praise — *fear turned into worship.*

APPLICATION

1. Embrace the humility of grace.—Serve someone who cannot repay you.
2. Rejoice in the announcement of grace.
3. Respond with worship and witness.—Share the *‘good news of great joy’*
4. Treasure Christ daily as Mary did.— *‘treasure and ponder’* the gospel daily