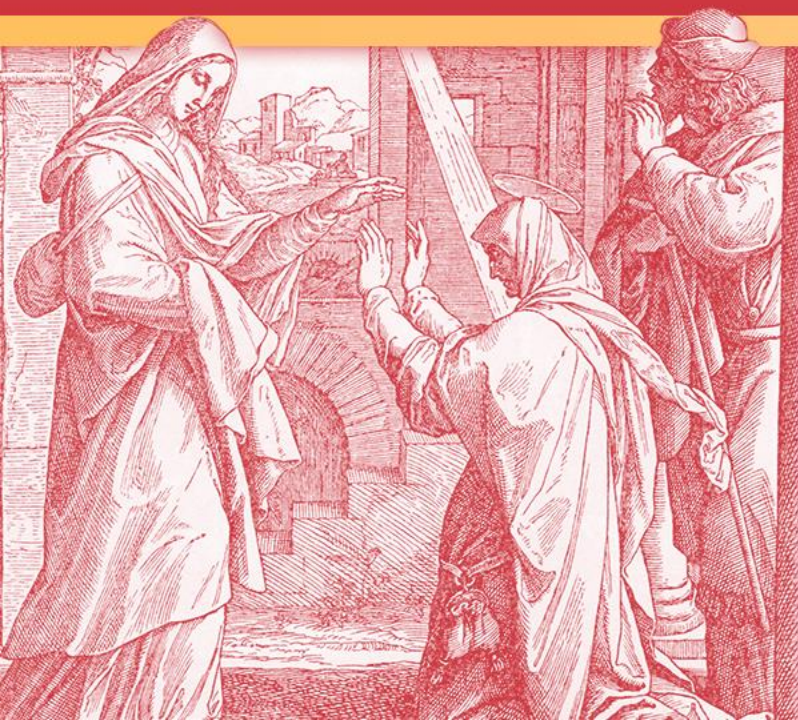
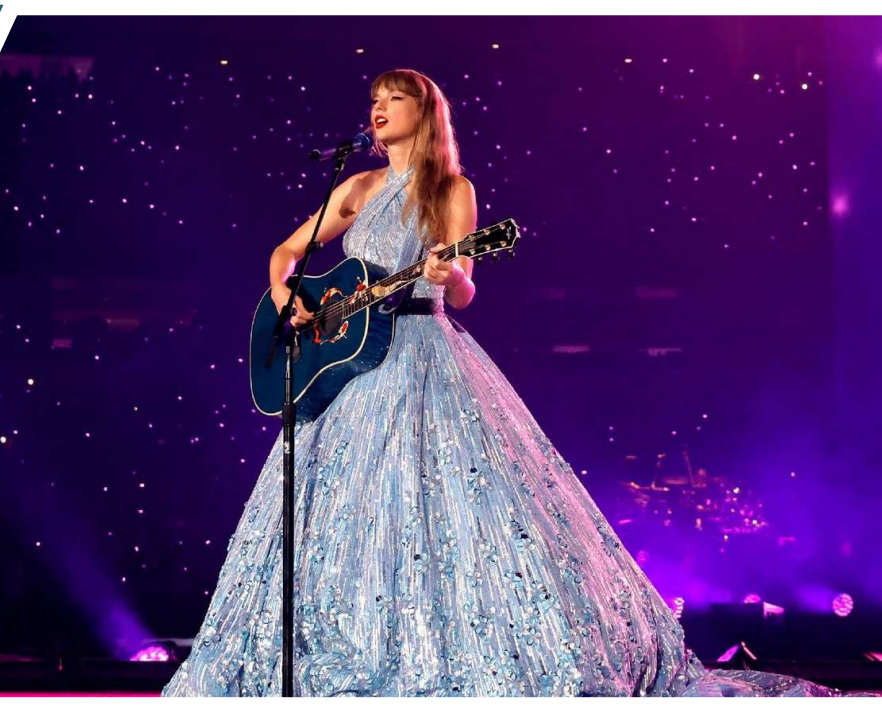


ADVENT 2023

CHRISTMAS & PEOPLE LIKE US





“This wasn’t a big deal among most of the world, but it was a big deal in heaven... Christmas is a powerful reminder that what is important in heaven is often unimportant on earth.”

...Our Extraordinary God invites Ordinary People into His story

Today's Passage: Luke 2:8-21

“⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

Luke 2:8-10 (ESV)

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:11-14 (ESV)

CHRISTMAS  PEOPLE LIKE US

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:15-18 (ESV)

19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Luke 2:19-21 (ESV)

Christmas & the Average Joe

Luke 2:8-21

The Shepherds...

1. Who are they?
2. What does God reveal to them?
3. How do they respond?

Question 1: Who Are They?

Perception:



Question 1: Who Are They?

Perception:



Reality:



→ A shepherd's work was and still is extraordinarily difficult.

The Shepherds: Who Are They?

Profound Biblical Realities..

1) There is *Value* and *Significance* to a Shepherds' Work

“He (Luther) insisted that the farmer shoveling manure and the maid milking her cow please God as much as the minister preaching or praying. Further, as we work in our God-given station in life we become agents of his providential care: “God is milking the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid.” We pray for daily bread at night, and bakers rise in the morning to bake it... Through our work the naked are clothed, the hungry fed, the sick healed. Through our work we please our Maker and love our neighbor.” – Dan Doriani

The Shepherds: Who Are They?

Profound Biblical Realities..

1) There is *Value* and *Significance* to a Shepherds' work.

→ There is *significant value* and *meaning* in your work.

The Shepherds: Who Are They?

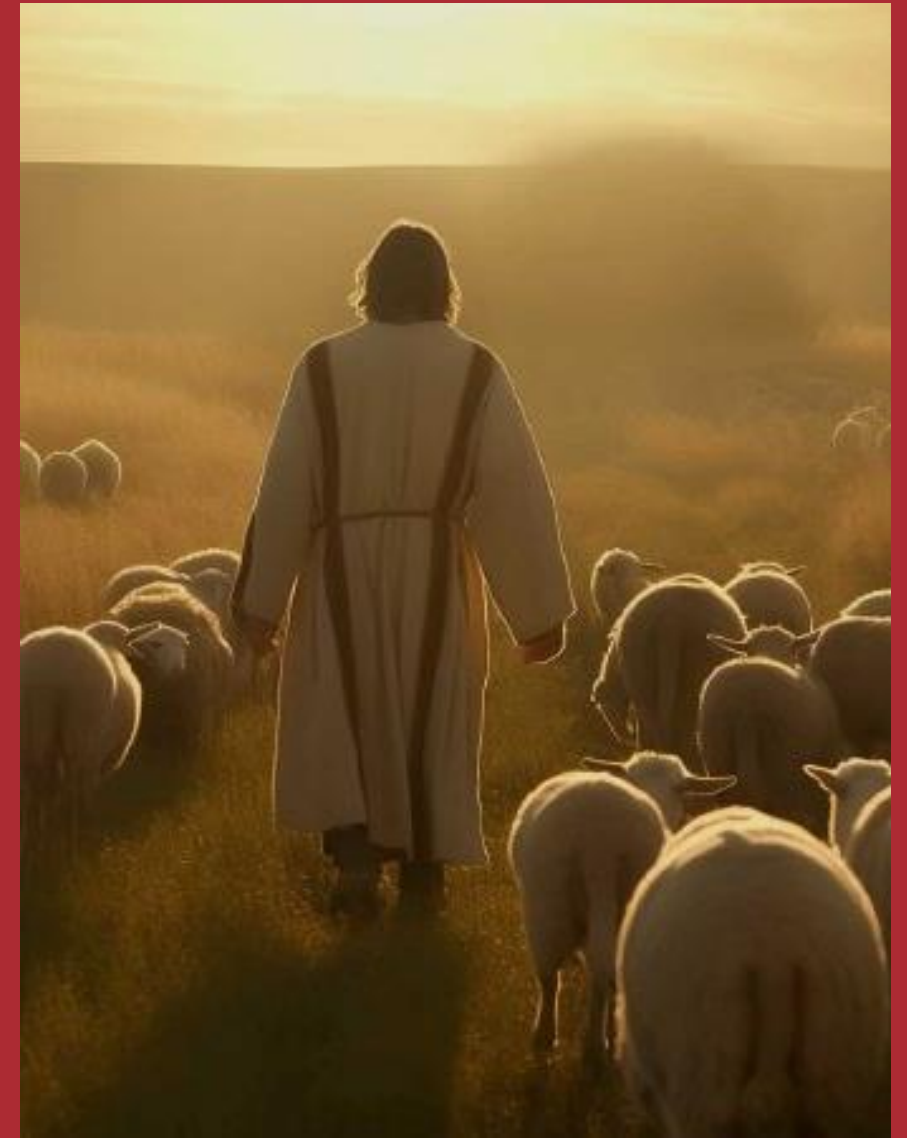
Profound Biblical Realities..

- 1) There is value and significance to a Shepherds' work and your work.
- 2) Shepherding is the language of leadership in the Bible.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd

- Psalm 23: “the LORD is my shepherd...”

- John 10:11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”



“The good news of the coming of the Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world, was announced among lambs set aside for the temple sacrifice and in the city of David, Israel’s last great shepherd. This is God declaring to His people that Jesus, both Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God, was coming to make true peace.”

– Daniel Darling

“The Lamb of God would first be held and handled and touched by those who knew how to appreciate and care for a lamb.”

– Daniel Darling

The Shepherds: What does God reveal to them?

“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.”



Luke 2:9

The Shepherds: What does God reveal to them?

“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.”

Luke 2:10-11



The Shepherds: What does God reveal to them?

→ These may have been *ordinary* men, but this was no ordinary news.

“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 3:15

“It was in short, the promise of a coming, conquering son. The promise encapsulated every promise in the Old Testament and, as such, shaped God’s people as a waiting people.”

–Jonathan Gibson

The Shepherds: What does God reveal to them?

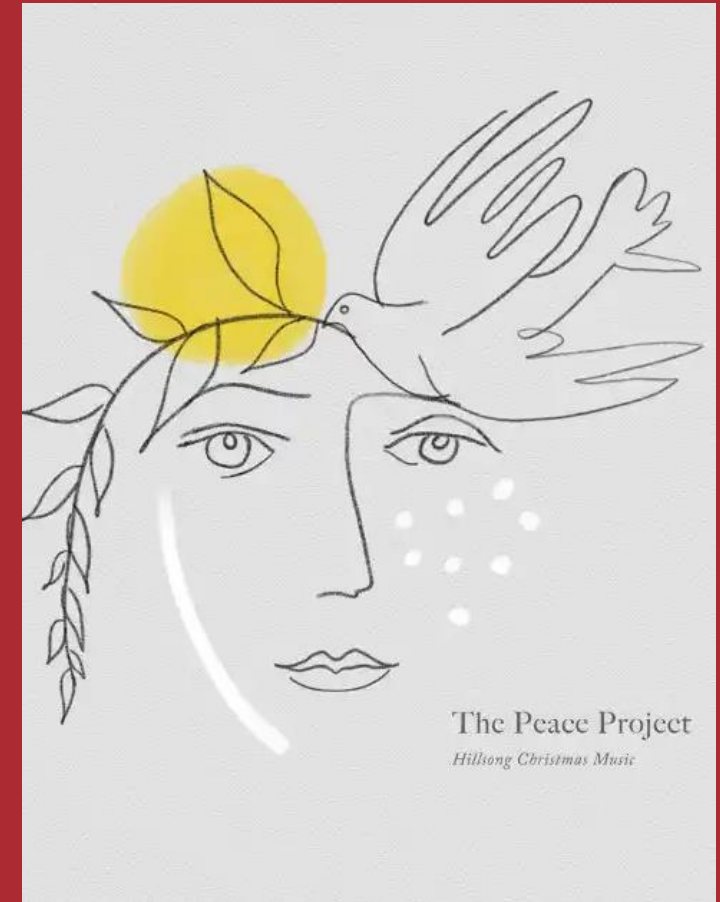
“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:13

***“Who is God that he would take our frame
The Artisan inside the paint
Or breathe the very air His breath sustains
The Architect inside the plan***

***Oh come now Hail His Arrival, The God of Creation
Royalty robed in the flesh He created
Jesus the Maker has made Himself Known
All Hail the Infinite Infant God”***

- Arrival: Hillsong Worship



The Shepherds: How do they respond?

1) With Haste.

“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

The Shepherds: How do they respond?

One commentator writes...

“In His humiliation, in those cloths and in that manger, He was available to all. Having been born in a stable the Lord of heaven and earth was not too remote for even the lowliest on earth.”

The Shepherds: How do they respond?

- 1) With Haste
- 2) With Missional Joy...

“And the shepherd returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.” Luke 2:20

“Good news of great joy that will be for all the people...”
Luke 2:10

So what... What is God calling you & me to?

The shepherds believed and it changed their direction.

→ *Where is God calling you to live missionally with this good news?*

→ *Who is He calling you to?*

Two Question to Ponder:

- 1) What is hijacking your heart from delighting in the Advent of Christ?***
- 2) What lies or distractions are you facing that need to be put aside, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for you to step out in missional joy towards the lost?***