

HANDOUT 12-7 2025 PART ONE “Behold the Lamb” Luke 2:15

In the story of the Shepherds in Luke 2 We Find Some Very Important Principles for US Today.

Other than Mary and Joseph, the First people to see the baby Jesus were the Unsophisticated, Uneducated, and Society-Shunned Shepherds of Bethlehem.

- The Shepherds’ Lives Were Forever Changed, and Their Night was Anything But Silent. Luke 2:1-20
- As We Celebrate Christmas...We are to do what the Shepherds did **FOCUS on the GIFT...ADJUST to The FATHER’S Activity...SPREAD the GOOD NEWS! Read Luke 2:15**

Every year it’s Hard to Keep the Peripheral Things Surrounding Christmas from “Taking Over” and Diverting Our Attention Away From JESUS: What Kind of Christmas tree will we get? Real or Artificial? Green or Flocked? Icicles or No Icicles on the Branches? Family Traditions: Who buys for who? Who shops? Who wraps? What’s the menu for Christmas dinner? Even Church Traditions: Christmas program? Christmas caroling? Candlelight service? Nativity scene?

- Our “Good Intentions” Miss the Target! We Lose Focus on the Real Reason for the Season!
- It’s Easy to Miss the Extraordinary...If We’re Wrapped Up in the Ordinary!

What do You See when You Focus on Jesus? Do You Just See a Baby in a Manger? **When We Focus on Jesus...We Find Life...We Find Liberty...And...We Find Love!** John 1.3 says, “In Him Was Life!”

The Late, Dr Adrian Rogers said, *“You see, Jesus came as He did, Virgin born to be what He was Sinless. He was Sinless to do what He did. Die for Our Sins as a Sinless Substitute. He did what He did that We Might be what We are...Sons and Daughters of God by Faith in what He did upon the Cross.”*

- Then Dr Rogers went on to say this...No Virgin Birth...No Sinless Sacrifice! No Sinless Sacrifice...No Atonement for Sin! No Atonement for Sin...No Possibility of Forgiveness of Sin! No Forgiveness...No Hope of Heaven! No Hope of Heaven...When You Die Your Only Choice is Hell!

We find Liberty in the Manger **Read 1 Timothy 1:15** Jesus Came to Free Us from Sin. He Came to Free Us from Self-Absorption or Obsession. A Person whose Heart is Fixed on God Will Not Live A Lifestyle of Sin.

This Liberty Offers Us...Freedom from Sin and Sin’s Control! **Read Romans 6:16**, John 8:34, Rom 3:23

The Terrible Tragedy of Sin is that...It is the Chains of Our Own Making. We go to the Anvil of Life and Use the Metal of Pride, Selfishness, Bitterness, Greed, Lust, Hate, Envy, Anger, Malice, and More...*We Shape Our Own Shackles...We Form Our Own Fetters.*

- Romans 6:22 “But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your Benefit, Resulting in Sanctification, and the Outcome is Eternal Life.”

We Can Make the Chains...But We Do Not of Ourselves Have the Power to Break the Chains.

- Paul tells us Jesus Christ and His Once for All Sacrifice, on the Cross, Shattered the Chains of Sin!
- Jesus has Freed Us from Sin As We Accept Him As Our Savior, Master and Lord.

POINT>>>Sin Drags Us Down to Death and Destruction Jesus Delivers Us to Life and Liberty. It was for Freedom that You Were Set Free. People think that they are Free Today...BUT...True Freedom does Not come from Doing Everything You Want...It Comes from Doing Everything In God’s Will!

- In the Liberty of the Manger We See a Dethroning of Sin and Self and the Enthroning of Jesus as Sovereign...As we Allow Him to be the Master of our Souls.

This Liberty Offers Us-FREEDOM From Sin’s Condemnation! **Romans 8:1**

- The story of the Prodigal Son. Is a Great Example of what God did for us. The father saw his son coming way off down the road, sprint and hugged the boys neck and said **“Welcome Home!!”**

This is What it is Like to have NO Condemnation...Even Though We Fail...Even Though We Fall...God Runs to Us and Grabs Us and Says...I LOVE YOU!!

The Only Condition To Having Freedom from Sins and NO Condemnation is to... Choose Christ and Confess Sin! **This Liberty Offers Us -FREEDOM to Serve in the Power of God the Holy Spirit!**

In Christ You Are No longer Condemned...No longer Sentenced...No longer Disapproved of...You are FREE in Christ...Jesus Broke the Bonds of Sin and Shame!

In Christ-We're No longer Afraid that it will be Held Against Us...Or Afraid to Face Our Failures and Sins...We Are FREE to Confess to God All Our Failings in Jesus Name.

POINT: We Praise God That He Grades Us On The CROSS...NOT On The CURVE!! 2 Cor 5:15

We find Unlimited...Unmerited Love in the Manger John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9

Truman Capote said it well, *"Love having NO Geography Knows NO Boundaries."* 1 John 4.8 "God Is Love". When we look Inside the Manger in the Limited Form of a Baby We Clearly See the Unlimited Love of God. What a Mystery the Unlimited Love of God...Wrapped Up in Swaddling Clothes and Laying in a Manger.

Adrian Rogers had Great Wisdom...Here's What He Said about God's love, God Doesn't Just Love All of Us...He Loves Each Of Us.

- *David tells us that God knit him together in his mother's womb. And He Counts the hairs on each person's head.*

God's love is Not Limited in Scope, it Cannot be Dimmed by Distance, it Cannot be Strangled by Sin...But it Can Be Rejected by Men...God's Love Can Only Be Limited By Your Lack of Acceptance.

- God's Unmerited LOVE... God's Love does Not Demand that You are Perfect!
- God Never says...if you do this I will love you. He simply loves us even though we do Not Measure Up to His Standards. We could never measure up enough to earn God's love. Even If we Lived a million, billion, or trillion lifetimes we could Not Be Worthy of His Love.

Q: What do You See when You Look in the Manger? Do You See the Life, Liberty, and Love of God? Do You See What the Shepherds Saw?

- This Morning... What Is Your Response to a God Who Provided Unlimited and Unmerited Love and Forgiveness of SIN?! Will You See the Extraordinary this Christmas...OR...Will You Miss it with the Busyness of the Ordinary?!

Each of Us has An Opportunity...To Teach our Children and Grand Children about the Gift of God's Son...Jesus...that Offers Freedom and Real Living!

We have the Opportunity when others say to Us...*Happy Holiday's...* To Respond with Merry Christmas!

We have the Opportunity to help Friends, Family and Neighbors to Not Miss the Extraordinary by being too Wrapped up in the Ordinary!

May God Use Each of Us at LifePoint Church to be a Beacon of God's Goodness and a Proclaimer of His Truth this Christmas!

LIFE POINT: It's Easy To Miss The Extraordinary...If We're Wrapped Up In The Ordinary!