

Sermon Discussion Guide

12.24.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Luke 2:8-21

Key Scripture:

“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, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 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!” 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. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 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 2:8-21

Message Highlights:

- In the scriptures, you see legendary people, but the fact is, none of them started as legendary.
 - The vantage point of the shepherds declares, without a doubt, that the Christmas message is for everyone.
 - As you live in a common space, will you allow Jesus to meet you in a divine way?
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CONVERSATION STARTER

- Talk about a time in your life when you saw the Lord move in a significant way. Was this a circumstance in which only God could intervene? How does that event impact your life today?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- What is the overall purpose of this text?
- What was the initial reaction of the shepherds when the angel appeared to them, and why do you think they were filled with great fear?
- How did the shepherds respond to the angelic message? What does their immediate decision to go to Bethlehem reveal about their faith and trust in God's revelation?
- How did the shepherds react after witnessing the scene in Bethlehem? What role did glorifying and praising God play in their response?
- The passage mentions, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" How does the birth of Jesus bring glory to God, and what is the nature of the peace being proclaimed?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- The narrative of Jesus' birth is characterized by individuals with humble beginnings whom God chose for significant purposes. What can we learn about our lives today from this theme of God selecting the humble and seemingly insignificant?
- In Sunday's message, Tyler emphasized the importance of being prepared for Jesus to use us wherever we are. How can we actively prepare ourselves for this?
- Considering that it might feel unnatural to live each day anticipating God working through us, what challenges could this pose in our everyday lives?
- What measures can you take biblically and spiritually to be prepared for God's movement in the common parts of life?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- Reflecting on the life-change questions, how might the church community benefit from actively considering and choosing to live in a way that seeks God's divine movement?
- How does actively seeking God's movement in our lives influence the relationships around us, particularly within our core group of friends?
- If this kind of lifestyle negatively impacts those we socialize with, what should we do about it?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- The angelic proclamation includes the message of peace on earth. How can the peace that comes through Jesus be a source of comfort and hope in our lives, especially in challenging times?
- How does living a life of peace and trust in the Lord while also being a light to the world around you look in a practical sense?
- If you choose to live in such a way that reveals you trust a Lord who moves in divine ways, how do you think that will impact others?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- The implications of our decisions as Christians will undoubtedly have an impact larger than ourselves. Jesus consistently pointed us toward Kingdom thinking and Kingdom living. How can looking for God's movement in our common spaces aid us in considering the Kingdom?
- What are a few practical ways to take this message of looking for God in the common spaces and apply it to your way of life?