

Immanuel: The Gift of Love

(Luke 2:8-14)

The Setting (Luke 2:1-7)

- Mary & Joseph have traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem
 - Because of Caesar's tax decree (v. 1)
- While they are there, Mary gives birth to Jesus
 - In a stable because of the lack of hospitality of the local people

The Shepherds (v. 8)

- During that time, social outcasts
 - Lived in the fields for long periods of time
 - Rough worn
 - Smelled like sheep
- But these are the same hills that David raised sheep on as a boy
 - The king who was a shepherd

The Angel (v. 9-10a)

- A messenger from God
 - Radiating God's glory from standing in His presence
- The shepherds were terrified by the angel's appearance
 - Not the pretty ladies of art work
 - Thus the reassurance: "Do not be afraid." (v. 10a)

The Message (v. 10b-12)

- "Good News": Evangel, Gospel
- "Of great joy": Which will change one's eternal outlook
- "For all people": Starting with the lowly shepherds, but will affect the whole world (see Luke 2:17)
- "In the town of David": fulfilling God's promise (Micah 5:2, c. 735 BC)
- "A Savior has been born": This child will save God's people
- "He is Christ the Lord"
 - He is both Messiah: God's anointed king
 - And Lord: God Himself
- Yet, He will be found in a feeding trough and wrapped in rags (v. 12)
 - Not the expected welcome for a king, much less God incarnate

The Praise (v. 13-14)

- More angels appear and sing God's praises (v. 13)
- And proclaim that this child has brought God's peace to earth (v. 14)

So What?

- Jesus is God's gift of love
 - He came to the outcast shepherds because He is the good Shepherd
 - He came in unadorned wrappings because it isn't the package that counts
 - He came to show us His Father's great love for us
- He is Immanuel, God with us

Meditation Verse: 1 John 4:10