

Shepherds and Angels; Luke 2:8-11

I. Birthdays

A. They are important to us

1. We want to make them special for our children
2. We throw lavish parties and give expensive gifts

B. They are important to God

1. It is the day God chose to bring you into this world
2. God celebrates the birth of Jesus' (and so should we)

C. The day may not be the important part, but the birth sure is

II. Jesus' Birth

A. A Celebration

1. Luke 2:12–14 (ESV); 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!”

2. Multitude of heavenly hosts

B. We are given a gift — that of our savior who will forgive the sins of the world

C. John 1:29 (ESV); The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

D. Shepherds' visit

1. Luke 2:15–20 (ESV); 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. 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.
2. Why the shepherds? Why didn't the angels go to the rulers and leaders of Israel?
3. There is something about the qualities of a shepherd that are important to God
 - a) Jacob was a shepherd for 20 years before he wrestled with the angel and his name was changed to Israel
 - b) Moses was raised in Pharaoh's courts with all the learning that comes with it, but he had to be a shepherd for 40 years before God came to him in the burning bush
 - c) David was shepherding his father's sheep when Saul came to Jesse's house to anoint the new king. David was also keeping the sheep when Goliath came up against Israel
 - d) Our Lord, King, and Savior is referred to as The Great Shepherd
 - e) I am not surprised at all that the message of Jesus' birth first came to the Shepherds

III. Jesus' Life

A. The Messiah

B. Deuteronomy 18:15–19 (ESV); ¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise

up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

C. He came preaching

D. Matthew 4:17 (ESV); ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

E. He came teaching

F. Matthew 5:1–2 (ESV); ¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

G. Spiritual versus material

1. As you read the beatitudes and the rest of chapters 5, 6, and 7, it becomes clear that Jesus is trying to show the Israelites what God’s law is supposed to be like

2. Over the course of Israel’s history they had become law keepers; it didn’t matter what you thought or felt, as long as you obeyed the law

3. Jesus said it did matter — hate is as bad as murder, lust is as bad as adultery, you should love your enemies and give to those in need

H. Jesus’ life was spent getting Israel ready for the coming Kingdom

IV. Jesus’ Death

A. This is the turning point for us

B. His birth and His life are very important and should be celebrated, but we have a mandate to celebrate his death, burial, and resurrection

C. His death was a sacrifice so we would not see death

1. The false arrest

2. The “false” trial in front of the Sanhedrin

3. Pilot and Herod both weighing in that Jesus was innocent

4. The crucifixion

5. The burial

6. The resurrection

D. All of this provided our forgiveness

1. Mark 2:5–7 (ESV); ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**”

2. Colossians 2:13–15 (ESV); ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,** ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

3. Hebrews 9:11–12 (ESV); ¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves **but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

E. This is why we celebrate

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV); ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper,

saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- V. A Celebration
 - A. Celebrate His Birth
 - B. Celebrate His Life
 - C. Celebrate His Death
 - D. Celebrate His Sacrifice for our eternity