

The Shepherds (Luke 2:1-20)
What Child Is This? sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 12.17.17

BIG IDEA: The shepherds saw Jesus as a savior to be sought out and shared with others.

Jesus Is The Shepherd & The Sheep (John 14:6, 10:11; John 10:14-15; Psalm 23:1-2)

- As Jesus lived out His public ministry, helping people finally come to understand how to have a personal relationship with God, He explained that we can only have that relationship through Him.
- He came to shepherd us, provide for us, protect us, help us to come to know His voice and to know Him. He came not as a reformer, teacher, prophet or an ultimate level of consciousness, but as a Shepherd.
- Sometimes we search for someone in this world, and it doesn't bring us a lot of joy. If you search for Jesus, that search will be different. That search can change your life!
- May we do as the shepherds did -- seek Him and once we find Him, may we, without reservation, share Him with others.

MY NEXT STEP: *In what way will I seek to better know Jesus this season? Who will I share Him with?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread Luke 2:1-20, imagining the scene that day in Bethlehem as best you can. What words or phrases stand out to you from the story? What grabs your attention? Why?
2. Compare this story to that of Zechariah (1:8-9) and Mary (1:26-27). How did the shepherds' experience differ from theirs? Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you think God sent them to the shepherds? With each one of these people, this glorious appearance happened while they were just doing their jobs, being themselves. How has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life?
3. Read Psalm 23, reflecting on how Christ is your Shepherd. Consider the words, and what they mean to you in your life. Read the psalm a second time, this time as a negative ("The Lord is *not* my shepherd..."). What verse is most disturbing? How does it help you to better appreciate who He *really* is in your life?
4. Read Genesis 46:34. How did the Egyptians see those who were shepherds? Why do you think that is? What profession might you compare a shepherd to today in our society? How do you tend to react to people in that line of work? Are there any people you don't tend to listen to? Why?
5. Next week in our series called *What Child Is This?*, we will look at the life of Mary and learn how she experienced Jesus. How do you think she saw or experienced Jesus as she came to understand who He really was? Share your thoughts and experiences with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Sermon Notes" card at