

CHRISTMAS MIRACLES ~
WHEN GOD STEPS INTO YOUR LIFE
The Shepherds: God Steps Into The Interrupted
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INTRODUCTION

- A.** Impossible. Messy. Interrupted. Do any of these things describe your life as the year comes to a close? This Christmas discover how God can step into your life when you need a miracle!

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”
Ephesians 3:20

- B.** In this series you will discover four Christmas miracles. You will also learn how God stepped into lives the first Christmas and how He can step into your life.

Dec 4	Mary: God Steps Into The Impossible
Dec 11	Joseph: God Steps Into The Messy
TODAY	The Shepherds: God Steps Into The Interrupted
Dec 25	Jesus: God Steps Into The World

- C. TEXT:** Luke 2:8-14 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1005/New Testament)

HOW GOD STEPS INTO THE INTERRUPTED

Did you know that originally Christmas was a “mass to Christ”, a service to commemorate Jesus’ incarnation? When God the Son, put on human flesh it was nothing less than a “miracle” worth celebrating! From the shepherds’ story we ask: What is a “miracle”? Why were these shepherds chosen to experience one? And how can miracles build faith and motivate us for missions?

A miracle is a striking phenomenon that causes awe indicating that the supernatural is at work. It is something we sense that makes us marvel at the unusual. Though scientifically inexplicable, it is spectacular, experientially true and totally transformative. When the “miraculous” occurs, events considered normal or predictable, are “interrupted” for the undoubtedly extraordinary.

Belief in an almighty yet personal being as Creator is a prerequisite for miracles. God has the right and ability to intervene or interrupt his own creation. Yet, he has ordained natural laws to govern

human life and wellbeing and being faithful and trustworthy, he upholds them. Miracles are not necessarily contra/against nature, but extra/supernatural for a specific time, people and its significant purpose is to reveal God’s power, meet human needs and ultimately glorify God.

A host of angels appeared to announce Jesus’ birth to lowly shepherds watching flock by night. Normally, who would we call on to share breaking news that’s life-changing? When heaven sent God’s only Savior to redeem all mankind, the greatest news came to the most ordinary people on earth. These illiterate outcasts could not enter the temple and their testimony not heard in a court of law. Yet, God’s gracious love cast away their fears and replaced them with joyful hope. They personally experienced God and were entrusted with a global Gospel “for ALL people”. It was that “to YOU is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord!”

A miracle in the Bible is a “sign” that causes wonder. What sign were the shepherds given? A new baby wrapped in swaddling cloth in a cradle is normal. Their sign was a special revelation for with it these first Christian detectives tracked down the baby’s location. They discover God’s glory, not in the temple, but in a mundane mucky feeding trough - a manger that shepherds, of all occupations would at once recognize! Did these men live to hear him one day say, “I AM the good shepherd” and identify YHWH’s title? Jesus will enter by the gate, calls his sheep by name, leads them in green pastures and lay down his life for them! The miracle? Majesty in a manger!

Finally, the miracle as these men was missional - from sheep-watching move to baby-sitting to become the first evangelists. They spread the good news from Bethlehem’s stable over the hills and everywhere! These shepherds become Jesus’ reproductive sheep. God’s saving arm was revealed to them but who will believe their report? - All people quiet enough to listen to the Gospel and obedient to go and tell it anyway! Those willing to let God interrupt their normal lives or “work as usual” experience miracles. What then is the greatest miracle? An ordinary but totally transformed life with beautiful feet that God uses to bring glad tidings to all people! So, Do I believe in miracles? No, I rely on them! What else, with heaven is in my heart, I am a one!