

## The Announcement of Christ's Birth (3)

Luke 2:1-20

- I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life Vs 1-5
- A. Life \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what our circumstances Vs 1a
- B. Timing for carrying out responsibilities will not always be \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 1b-5
1. Tax time is never convenient and rarely profitable Vs 1b-3
    - a. This was more than \_\_\_\_\_ taxes
    - b. This was a census that occurred every \_\_\_\_\_ years thus each male Jew had to return to his home city to register.
  2. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles Vs 4
  3. Mary was "great with child" (KJV) Vs 5
    - a. Mary was very \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Mary was huge due to her pregnancy and ready to deliver at any time even \_\_\_\_\_ they ever began the long journey
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life Vs 6-7
- A. The long hard journey probably \_\_\_\_\_ greatly to Mary's delivery in a place other than her home
1. In a \_\_\_\_\_ city-Bethlehem instead of Nazareth
  2. In a strange \_\_\_\_\_-a manger instead of her own home
    - a. Could have been a feeding \_\_\_\_\_ for animals, or
    - b. Could have been a \_\_\_\_\_ for keeping animals
    - c. Many scholars believe the location of Christ's birth was a \_\_\_\_\_ and not a wooden stable as depicted by most Christ's birth scenes
- B. She wrapped her newborn son in swaddling clothes
1. The swaddling cloth was \_\_\_\_\_ strips of cloth
  2. She wrapped Christ in these long strips of cloth to \_\_\_\_\_ him much as a mother does a blanket today
- C. "There was no room in the inn"
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of being poor and not being able to make a reservation in advance of arrival
  2. The misfortune of \_\_\_\_\_-there was a crowd of people in Bethlehem that wouldn't ordinarily be there
- III. The " \_\_\_\_\_ " visitors Vs 8
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
1. Shepherds were social \_\_\_\_\_ and often considered as thieves and cheats due to their occupation
  2. Being a shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ them from being a witness in a court of law
  3. Their work essentially kept them from ever being socially " \_\_\_\_\_ " or a trustworthy human being
- B. The shepherds were not the folks you would \_\_\_\_\_, or even want to come to see your newborn son
- C. However, in God's economy, there are no unimportant people, only \_\_\_\_\_ who are willing to be used by God to accomplish His purposes
- IV. God was at work \_\_\_\_\_ the inconveniences and misfortunes of life
- A. God's plans for accomplishing His will are to His \_\_\_\_\_ alone
1. We may make our plans, but God \_\_\_\_\_ the outcome
    - a. Joseph and Mary were not planning on this \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy
    - b. The timing for a required government census was \_\_\_\_\_ timing for them both

- c. The \_\_\_\_\_ situation for the birth of his only begotten Son seems strange
- d. The timing for the \_\_\_\_\_ of baby Jesus
2. We see, by the account of Scripture, that Joseph and Mary made the \_\_\_\_\_ of what God sent their way
- B. God's plan was that shepherds would get the \_\_\_\_\_ announcement of Christ's birth **Vs 8-14**
1. God sent his \_\_\_\_\_ to them to make the announcement of Christ's birth **Vs 8-**
2. The announcement began with the display of God's \_\_\_\_\_ lighting up the night
3. The announcement was one of great \_\_\_\_\_ which would produce great \_\_\_\_\_ **Vs 10a**
4. The announcement would eventually be made know to \_\_\_\_\_ **Vs 10b**
5. The announcement was \_\_\_\_\_ **Vs 11a**
6. The announcement was about a \_\_\_\_\_ whose name is Christ, the Lord **Vs 11b**
7. The announcement was \_\_\_\_\_ **Vs 12**
8. The announcement concluded with the angel choir from Heaven singing \_\_\_\_\_ to God **Vs 13-14**
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ from the shepherds **Vs 15-16**
- D. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's miraculous work from earth's most unlikely \_\_\_\_\_ **Vs 17-20**
1. The amazement of the announcement to the shepherds and their finding the whole thing to be true \_\_\_\_\_ them to tell others **Vs 17**
2. The people who heard the shepherd's witness were \_\_\_\_\_ at the whole event **Vs 18**
- a. Some may have been \_\_\_\_\_ by the shepherds making such statements
- b. Some may have been very \_\_\_\_\_ to find out more
- c. All who heard the announcement were \_\_\_\_\_ the same after hearing what the shepherds had to say
3. Mary simply \_\_\_\_\_ on all that had occurred from the announcement of Gabriel nine months earlier until now **Vs 19**
4. The shepherds' \_\_\_\_\_ were forever changed by this encounter with God, the Son **Vs 20**
- a. **Glorifying**-from one's \_\_\_\_\_ magnify, extol, and praise
- b. **Praising**-\_\_\_\_\_ commend and extol; energetic positive affirmation
- c. Their glorifying and praising were the result of "all things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them"
- (1) The \_\_\_\_\_ they had received from God's messengers
- (2) Their believing and \_\_\_\_\_ response to the message
- (3) What they \_\_\_\_\_ by responding obediently to God

Conclusion:

1. God does that which \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
2. He uses people and conditions that we often \_\_\_\_\_ never use.
3. His plan cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ or changed.
4. It would do us well to be \_\_\_\_\_ and praise Him for allowing us to be a part of His family and plan through the \_\_\_\_\_.

