

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS  
COME, WEEK 10

TITLE: **THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE TO THE  
GOOD NEWS**

TEXT: LUKE 2:15-21

INTRODUCTION: (1) OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN  
THE WORLD, GOD PICKED A BAND OF  
SHEPHERDS TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF  
**JESUS' BIRTH** FIRST.

\* BUT NOT ONLY WERE THE SHEPHERDS THE  
**FIRST TO HEAR OF JESUS'** ACTUAL BIRTH, THEY  
WERE THE FIRST ONES RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE  
TO SEE THE BABY JESUS BEYOND JOSEPH AND  
MARY.

\*\* AND THAT IS QUITE INTRIGUING BECAUSE AS I  
SAID LAST WEEK, SHEPHERDS WERE AMONG  
THE LOWEST AND MOST DESPISED SOCIAL  
GROUPS IN ISRAEL IN THAT DAY, OUTSIDE OF  
LEPERS.

\*\*\* FOR YOU SEE THE VERY NATURE OF THEIR WORK KEPT THEM FROM ENTERING INTO THE **MAINSTREAM OF ISRAEL'S SOCIETY.**

\*\*\*\***THEY COULDN'T MAINTAIN THE CEREMONIAL** WASHINGS AND OBSERVE ALL THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS AND FEASTS, THEY WERE OUTSIDERS, OUT IN THE FIELDS TENDING TO THEIR SHEEP.

(2) YET THESE SHEPHERDS, CLOSE AS THEY WERE TO JERUSALEM BEING IN THE SAME REGION OF BETHLEHEM, MOST LIKELY WERE CARING FOR SHEEP THAT SOMEDAY WOULD BE USED AS SACRIFICES IN THE TEMPLE.

\* SO HOW FITTING IT IS THAT THEY WERE THE **FIRST TO KNOW OF THE LAMB OF GOD'S BIRTH!** AND THAT LATER JESUS WOULD SAY IN JOHN 10:11 (QUOTE IT).

\*\* NOW AGAIN AS WE FOCUS ON THE SHEPHERDS, THEY CAME TO SEE THE BABY JESUS. NO ONE ELSE DID, FOR THE MAGI, THE WISE MEN, WOULD LATER SEE THE CHILD JESUS, NOT THE BABY JESUS, AT LEAST MONTHS LATER.

\*\*\* SO OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, THE SHEPHERDS WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO DID NOT MISS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

\*\*\*\* THE LOWEST PEOPLE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LADDER WOULD BE THE FIRST TO **HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH** AND THE FIRST TO SEE THE SAVIOR.

(3) OBVIOUSLY GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO THE HUMBLE. AND TO THE LOWEST OF THE LOW IN ISRAEL, LUKE IS INSPIRED TO WRITE ABOUT IN LUKE 2, NOT THE PHARISEES, THE SCRIBES AND THE SADDUCEES, NOT THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND PROUD.

**\* NOW IMAGINE WITH ME TODAY, THAT YOU'RE** IN THE SITUATION OF THE SHEPHERDS.

\*\* I MEAN LIFE HAS BEEN PRETTY PLAIN AND MUNDANE, PRETTY COMMON PLACE, PRETTY VANILLA.

\*\*\* AND ALL OF A SUDDEN ALL HEAVEN HAS BROKEN LOOSE.

\*\*\*\* **YOU'VE JUST HAD AN ANGELIC MESSENGER,** PERHAPS GABRIEL, TELL YOU THAT THE MESSIAH HAS BEEN BORN, THE CHRIST, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, GOD IN HUMAN FLESH.

(4) AND AFTER THAT THE ANGEL IS ACCOMPANIED BY A WHOLE HEAVENLY HOST OF ANGELS WHO HAVE COME DOWN AND GIVEN YOU A TASTE OF HEAVEN AND THEY ARE GLORIFYING GOD AND PRAISING GOD FOR THE **SALVATION THAT HE'S BROUGHT ON EARTH** THROUGH THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH.

\* AND THIS IS ALL BEYOND ANYTHING IMAGINABLE TO THESE MEN.

\*\* THE QUESTION AT THIS POINT IS, HOW DID THEY RESPOND? HOW DID THEY REACT?

\*\*\* WELL, THEIR RESPONSE IS RECORDED FOR US TODAY IN THE PASSAGE WE ARE GOING TO STUDY.

\*\*\*\* AND THEIR RESPONSE IS A WONDERFUL RESPONSE. AND IN VIEW OF THAT, **I'VE SIMPLY TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY, "THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS."**

**(5) AND WE'LL LOOK AT THEIR RESPONSES, MARY'S RESPONSE, THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE WHO HEARD OF IT IN BETHLEHEM, AND FINALLY JOSEPH AND MARY'S RESPONSE.**

\* AND TODAY IN **OUR STUDY WE'RE GOING TO** LOOK AT 4 POINTS IN LUKE 2:15-21.

\*\* NO. 1 THE REACTION OF THE SHEPHERDS, VV. 15-18; NO. 2 THE REFLECTION OF MARY, V. 19; NO. 3 THE RETURN OF THE SHEPHERDS TO THEIR FLOCKS, V. 20; AND NO. 4 THE REGULATION THAT JOSEPH AND MARY OBEYED IN CIRCUMCISING THE BABY JESUS IN V. 21.

\*\*\* **SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE REACTION, THE REFLECTION, THE RETURN AND THE REGULATION UNDER THE RESPONSE OF THE SHEPHERDS TO THE GOOD NEWS. AND WITH THAT OUTLINE IN MIND, WE'LL LOOK AT OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE REACTION, BEGINNING IN V. 15. LOOK AT LUKE 2:15 PLEASE.**

I. THE REACTION, (READ V. 15)

A. NOW AFTER THE ANGELS LEFT THE SHEPHERDS AND GO BACK TO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS REACTION TO WHAT THEY WERE TOLD BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IN VV. 9-12, AND WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD FROM THE HEAVENLY HOST OF ANGELS IN VV. 13&14 WAS TO IMMEDIATELY GO TO BETHLEHEM, (QUOTE LUKE 2:11 AND LUKE 2:14)

\*\* THE HEAVENLY HOST WAS PRAISING GOD AND SAYING, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH, PEACE AMONG MEN WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED.

\*\*\* NOW WITH THAT FRAMED FOR US AS WE GO BACK TO THE SHEPHERDS, THERE IS A SPONTANEOUS REACTION, EVEN A SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE GREEK CONSTRUCTION HERE, **IT'S WITHOUT DELAY, AT ONCE WE'RE GOING TO GO.**

\*\*\*\* NOW OBVIOUSLY THEY HAD TO MAKE SOME QUICK PREPARATIONS, THEY HAD TO FIND SOME PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR SHEEP OR SOME OF THEM STAYED, OR THEY LEFT THEIR **SHEEP ALONE IN HASTE TO SEE CHRIST. THAT'S** ALL THAT MATTERED TO THEM, THEY HAD TO GO 1-2 MILES TO SEE THE SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.

\*\*\*\*\* SO THEY WOULD HAVE A GOOD WALK **AHEAD OF THEM. BUT THE IDEA IS, "LET US GO STRAIGHT TO BETHLEHEM."**

1. THERE WAS SPONTANEITY AT THIS POINT. **WE'VE GOT TO GO. ALL OF THEM, WHICH THE** NUMBER IS NOT GIVEN WANTED TO HIT THE ROAD.

\* AND TO ME THIS SHOWS THEIR FAITH, THEIR BELIEF. THEY HAD A REVELATION FROM GOD AND THEY BELIEVED IT, THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN THESE THINGS TO US IN V. 15.

\*\* AND THESE SHEPHERDS, PROBABLY DEVOUT JEWS, BELIEVED THE FACT THAT THEIR MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR, THE CHRIST, THE LORD HAD COME.

\*\*\* AND IT WAS **NOT A MATTER OF LET'S GO SEE** IF IT IS TRUE, BUT LET US QUICKLY GO AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS HAPPENED.

\*\*\*\* AND THE WORD "THING" IN THE GREEK IS THE WORD HRAY-MAH AND IT LIT. MEANS A WORD, OR A REALITY, A DECLARATION, THE MAJORITY TRANSLATION IS THE WORD - WORD.



2. SO THE SHEPHERDS WERE SAYING, LET US SEE THIS REALITY. THEY NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE HEARD A WORD FROM GOD, **THAT THERE'S A REALITY AND THE REALITY IS** THAT THE SAVIOR IS BORN.

\* AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, RAY, THEIR FAITH IS NOT A BIG DEAL FOR THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SPOKE TO THEM AND THEY SAW THE HEAVENLY HOST. I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT TOO.

\*\* WELL, NO. 1 WHEN THEY SAW THE ANGEL OF THE LORD AND HIS GLORY, THEY WERE **TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED, THAT'S WHY** THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, **"DO NOT BE AFRAID"** IN VERSES 9&10 OF LUKE 2.

\*\*\* AND TWO, WHAT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD TOLD THEM WOULD GO AGAINST COMMON JEWISH BELIEF IN THAT DAY, FOR THE **MESSIAH'S ENTRANCE IN THE WORLD** WAS A HUMBLE SETTING AND THE JEWS WERE LOOKING FOR A ROYAL KINGLY SETTING, FOR THEIR MESSIAH.

\*\*\*\* FOR THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SAID THE SIGN FOR THEM TO IDENTIFY THE SAVIOR WOULD BE HE WOULD BE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, NOT UNUSUAL, BUT LYING IN A MANGER.

3. AND THAT WAS VERY UNUSUAL. NOBODY WOULD PUT A NEWBORN BABY IN A FEEDING TROUGH FOR ANIMALS IN A STINKING UNSANITARY STABLE! LET ALONE FOR A KING.

\* THAT TRULY WAS A SIGN! I MEAN WE ARE GERM FREAKS TODAY, WE ARE SANITARY FREAKS. AND NONE OF US WOULD PUT OUR NEWBORN IN A FEEDING TROUGH IN A STABLE. **WE'D CLEAN IT, GET OUT THE LYSOL SPRAY, PUT HAND DISINFECTANT ON IT – I WOULD.**

\*\* BUT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE IN THE INN. SO OUR SAVIOR HAD VERY HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND THE SHEPHERDS BELIEVED.

\*\*\* AND FAITH SHOULD PRODUCE ACTION AND IT DID!! LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 16. NOW THE SHEPHERDS CAME IN HASTE TO BETHLEHEM, THEY WERE IN A HURRY, THEY WERE EAGER, THEY WERE ENTHUSED, THEY WERE EXCITED.

\* NOW REMEMBER THEY, THE SHEPHERDS, HAD SOME DISTANCE TO TRAVEL, BUT THEY WERE IN A HURRY TO SEE THIS BABY.

\*\* BUT ALSO THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO SOME SEARCHING FOR THE BABY IN BETHLEHEM, WHICH WAS NOT A BIG CITY BUT A SMALL VILLAGE ABOUT 6 MILES SOUTH OF JERUSALEM.

\*\*\* AND LUKE DOES NOT DESCRIBE HOW THE SHEPHERDS FOUND MARY, JOSEPH AND THE BABY JESUS.

\*\*\*\* HOWEVER, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MANY BABIES IN A SMALL VILLAGE LIKE BETHLEHEM ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT. SO THEY LOOK FOR JESUS AND FIND HIM.

\*\*\*\* AND THE WORD FOUND IN V. 16 IN THE GREEK LIT. TO MEANS TO FIND OUT BY SEARCH. SO THEY AGAIN WOULD HAVE TO DO SOME SEARCHING, BUT PROBABLY STARTED GOING TO **THE TOWN'S STABLES**, AND THEY FINALLY FOUND JESUS, LYING IN A MANGER – THE THIRD TIME LUKE USES THE WORD MANGER IN HIS INFANCY NARRATIVE.

\*\*\*\* **THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.** THAT WAS THEIR SIGN.

- NOW BEFORE I GO ON TO V. 17, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION, TALK OR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SHEPHERDS AND MARY AND JOSEPH BETWEEN VERSES 16&17.

\* FOR NO DOUBT, MARY AND JOSEPH WERE AMAZED AND MAYBE OVERWHELMED BY THE **SHEPHERDS' RECOUNTING OF THE ASTONISHING** EVENT OF THE ANGEL AND THEN A MULTITUDE OF ANGELS THEY HAD JUST WITNESSED.

\*\* AND CERTAINLY THE WORDS OF THE ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS PROVIDED FURTHER CONFIRMATION TO MARY AND JOSEPH OF WHO THEIR CHILD WAS.

**\*\*\* AND THEN POSSIBLY MARY'S ACCOUNT OF GABRIEL'S APPEARANCE TO HER, ALONG WITH JOSEPH'S ACCOUNT OF HIS DREAM COULD ONLY HAVE INCREASED THE SHEPHERDS' AMAZEMENT. THIS HAD TO BE AN EXCITING TIME. AND TO SEE THE BABY JESUS IN A MANGER MUST HAVE BEEN SO ENCOURAGING, TO LOOK AT THEIR SAVIOR.**

\*\*\*\*THOUGH AFTER THEY SEE THE BABY, LOOK AT WHAT THE SHEPHERDS DO IN V. 17. (LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE)

C. READ V. 17. NOW AFTER THE SHEPHERDS SEE THE BABY JESUS, THEY BECOME THE FIRST HUMAN MESSENGERS TO PROCLAIM THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH.

\* THEY BECAME THE FIRST WITNESSES FOR CHRIST AFTER HIS BIRTH, THE FIRST EVANGELISTS, THEY HID NOTHING, THEY WERE THE FIRST PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL.

**\*\* THEY COULDN'T RESTRAIN THEMSELVES, THIS WAS THE GREATEST NEWS THE WORLD WOULD EVER KNOW, AND THEY OBVIOUSLY WERE EXCITED.**

\*\*\* THEY MADE KNOWN WHAT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD HAD TOLD THEM, THAT THE SAVIOR, CHRIST THE LORD HAS COME.

\*\*\*\* AND THEN THEY COULD SAY, WE SAW HIM WITH OUR OWN EYES. THEY WERE JAZZED, THEY WERE PUMPED.

1. AND WHAT AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. YOU SEE JESUS, OR TODAY, YOU COME TO KNOW JESUS AND WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? GO, TELL, EVERYONE!

\* YOU HAVE THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND **YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT JESUS, SO YOU TELL** PEOPLE ABOUT HIM, **THAT'S WHY I ENJOY BEING** AROUND NEW BELIEVERS.

\*\* AND BELOVED, THE RESPONSE OF THOSE WHO COME TO CHRIST IS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. AND MANY TIMES, THE MOST BOLD AND PASSIONATE PEOPLE IN PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL ARE NEW BELIEVERS.

\*\*\* BUT SADLY, THE LONGER PEOPLE ARE SAVED, THE LESS EXCITED THEY SEEM ABOUT THEIR SALVATION, AND THE LESS EAGER THEY ARE TO COMMUNICATE THE FAITH. (ILLUST. MYSELF TO A CERTAIN DEGREE. I STILL HAVE A BURDEN BUT MAYBE NOT AS MUCH EXCITEMENT.)

\*\*\*\* AND PLEASE GET THIS, TRUE SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT IS DETERMINED BY THE QUALITY **AND TENACITY OF A BELIEVER'S LONG-TERM** JOY OVER THEIR SALVATION, QUOTE PSALM 51:12.

- NOW ONE MEASURE OF THAT JOY OF OUR SALVATION IS HOW EAGERLY WE PROCLAIM AND COMMUNICATE AND TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE GOSPEL.

- AND A LACK OF ZEAL AND PASSION THAT COMPELS US TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST SHOWS - EXPOSES A HEART OF INDIFFERENCE AND INGRATITUDE. AND WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT, AND IF IT IS SO, THEN **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. (WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT CHRIST? CAN YOU REMEMBER? BUT RAY, THAT IS NOT MY GIFT. WELL IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE OUR JOY AND SHOWS TENDERNESS OF HEART RATHER THAN HARDNESS OF OUR HEART. START WITH TAKING A CARD AND INVITING SOMEONE TO THE OUTREACH, ALL OF US CAN DO THAT.)**



\* AND LET ME SAY AGAIN SADLY, FOR SOME **CHRISTIANS THEY'VE LOST THE EXCITEMENT** AND JOY OF THEIR SALVATION AND GET MORE EXCITED ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE TEAM, OR THEIR FAVORITE RESTAURANT AND FOOD, OR A HOUSE OR A CAR.

**\*\*\* BUT THEY'RE REALLY NOT THAT EXCITED** ABOUT THEIR SALVATION OR THEIR SAVIOR.

\*\*\*\* BUT THE MIRACLE OF THE INCARNATION, THE ADVENT OF CHRIST, THAT GOD WOULD BECOME MAN TO SAVE MAN SHOULD THRILL OUR SOULS! THAT THE INFINITE ONE WOULD BECOME AN INFANT.

2. AND WE OUGHT TO AS THE LORD OPENS DOORS, TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE SAVIOR. AND WHY HE WAS BORN AND HOW THE LOVE OF GOD WAS MANIFEST TO SAVE US FROM HIS HOLY WRATH.

\* WELL, THE REACTION OF THE SHEPHERDS WAS TO MAKE KNOWN THE TRUTHS THE ANGEL DECLARED TO THEM THAT WAS CONFIRMED BY WHAT THEY SAW IN BETHLEHEM.

\*\* BUT NOTICE IN V. 18, THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE THAT HEARD THEIR MESSAGE IN BETHLEHEM.

D. READ V. 18. NOW THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE IN BETHLEHEM THAT HEARD WHAT THE SHEPHERDS SAID WAS WONDER, LIT. AMAZEMENT, TO MARVEL, TO BEING AMAZED.

\* **AND IT'S INTERESTING TO ME THAT OF THE 47** USES IN THE N.T. OF THIS GREEK WORD, THOUMAD-ZO, LUKE IN HIS GOSPEL ALONE USES IT 13 TIMES.

\*\* LUKE LIKES THIS WORD AND REPEATS IT AGAIN AND AGAIN. WHY? WELL, THE THINGS THAT JESUS DID CAUSED PEOPLE TO BE AMAZED, IT CAUSED THEM TO WONDER, IT CAUSED THEM TO MARVEL.

\*\*\* FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST CAUSED PEOPLE TO BE AMAZED.

\*\*\*\* AND THE TRUTH IS, **CHRIST'S BIRTH, LIFE,** WORKS, DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION ARE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. JESUS WAS A WONDER.

\*\*\*\* AND YET A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY ACKNOWLEDGE THE WONDER OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND THE WHOLE NATIVITY, BUT STOP RIGHT THERE.

1. AND AMAZEMENT IS WONDERFUL, BUT IT MUST LEAD TO COMMITMENT.

\* AND TO HAVE WARM FEELINGS ABOUT THE WHOLE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND BEING AMAZED **BY JESUS DOESN'T** CUT IT.

**\*\* AND TO ME, IT'S** INTERESTING, THAT IN THIS **WHOLE NARRATIVE, WE DON'T READ ANYTHING** ABOUT ANY OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE AMAZED, GOING TO SEE JESUS AS THE SHEPHERDS DID.

\*\*\* NOW LUKE COULD HAVE LEFT THAT OUT. HOWEVER, BEING INSPIRED TO WRITE DOWN THE SHEPHERDS GOING TO SEE THE BABY IN THE MANGER, LOWLY PEOPLE, YOU WOULD THINK LUKE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST MENTIONED THAT OTHERS WENT. **NOW OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T BE** DOGMATIC ABOUT THAT.

2. BUT IT APPEARS THAT THESE PEOPLE WONDERED, THEN WENT ON WITH THEIR LIVES. **AND THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF** PEOPLE DO ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS. THEY GET EXCITED ABOUT THE SEASON, BUT NOT THE SAVIOR, AND GO ON WITH THEIR LIVES. WHAT A TRAGEDY.

\* BUT I MUST MOVE ON, LOOK AT V. 19 WHERE **WE'LL SEE MARY'S RESPONSE, AND HER** RESPONSE IS REFLECTION. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.

## II. THE REFLECTION, (READ V. 19)

A. NOW V. 19 TAKES US INTO THE HEART OF MARY, SHE TREASURED UP ALL THESE THINGS, PONDERING THEM IN HER HEART.

\* MARY WAS CONTEMPLATING, MULLING OVER, PONDERING ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN HER HEART.

\*\* AND IT HAD TO BE AMAZING TO HER, WHAT THE SHEPHERDS TOLD HER, WHAT JOSEPH HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD, AND WHAT SHE HAD BEEN TOLD BEFORE CONCEPTION BY GABRIEL.

**\*\*\* AND NOW ALL OF IT HAS TRANSPIRED. IT'S** BEYOND COMPREHENSION. AND REMEMBER MARY WAS JUST A TEENAGER, MOST LIKELY 13-14 YEARS OLD.

\*\*\*\* I MEAN SHE LOOKS INTO A FEEDING TROUGH, A MANGER AND SEES A BABY THAT SHE HAS JUST DELIVERED THAT DAY, LUKE 2:11, AND **SHE'S NEVER KNOWN A MAN SEXUALLY**, SHE WAS A VIRGIN.

1. THIS BABY WAS CONCEIVED AND BORN WITHOUT EVER KNOWING A MAN. THIS BABY IS THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD.

\* THIS BABY IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF DAVID. THIS BABY IS THE SAVIOR. THIS BABY IS GOD, THE MESSIAH.

\*\* MARY HAD INCUBATED AMAZEMENT FOR 9 MONTHS. NOW SHE INCUBATED EXPERIENCES IN HER MIND, EXPERIENCES THAT EVENTUALLY BECAME TREASURED MEMORIES.

\*\*\* IT HAD TO BE MIND BOGGLING TO HER. AND WHAT IS GOING THROUGH HER MIND AS A NEW FIRST TIME **MOTHER, I DON'T KNOW.**

\*\*\*\* BUT SHE IS PONDERING THEM OVER AND TREASURING THEM UP AT THIS POINT. AND I **DON'T THINK THERE IS FEAR BUT WONDER, AMAZEMENT AND WONDERING WHAT'S NEXT.**

**2. ALL OF THIS IS AMAZING. AND THAT'S MARY'S RESPONSE, SHE REFLECTS AS SHE LOOKS AT HER BABY THAT IS GOING TO BE HER SAVIOR. WOW!! THERE IS HOLY AWE. SHE'S THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH AND HER BABY IS GOING TO SAVE HER. FOR IN LUKE 1:46&47 MARY SAYS: "MY SOUL EXALTS THE LORD AND MY SPIRIT HAS REJOICED IN GOD MY SAVIOR."**

\* BUT WHAT A TIME OF REFLECTION IT HAD TO BE FOR MARY. **BUT MARY'S REFLECTION LEADS TO THE RETURN OF THE SHEPHERDS TO THEIR FLOCKS, LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE.**

### III. THE RETURN, (READ V. 20)

A. NOW THE SHEPHERDS HAVE TO GO BACK, THEY HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK, TO REALITY, **LIFE GOES ON AFTER THEY'VE JUST SEEN THE SAVIOR.**

\* BUT GOING BACK TO WORK AFTER WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD, THAT THE SAVIOR HAD COME, LED THEM AS THEY WENT BACK TO THEIR FLOCKS TO GLORIFY AND PRAISE GOD.

\*\* THE SHEPHERDS WENT BACK GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD. THEY WENT BACK WORSHIPPING, EXTOLLING GOD, HONORING GOD, ASCRIBING GLORY TO GOD.

\*\*\* AND GLORIFYING GOD REFERS TO VERBALLY GIVING HONOR TO GOD FOR HIS ACTS.



\*\*\*\* AND WHAT THE SHEPHERDS SAW IN BETHLEHEM WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH WHAT **THEY HAD HEARD FROM THE ANGELS AND GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH THE ANGELS HAD COME TO PASS, LEADING TO PRAISE FOR GOD'S WORK.**

- AND THE SHEPHERDS WITNESSED THE START **OF GOD'S WORK IN JESUS AND FELT HONORED** TO SHARE IN THE EVENT. THEY LEFT WITH WORSHIP AND PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING IN THEIR HEARTS.

\*\*\* AND IT REMINDS ME THAT AFTER WE LEAVE OUR GATHERING TIMES, WHICH IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF CORPORATE WORSHIP, THAT WE HAVE TO GO BACK OUT INTO THE WORLD TO OUR JOBS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SCHOOL, ETC., BUT AS WE DO, WE NEED TO BE GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD FOR OPENING OUR EYES TO SEE JESUS, IN HIS WORD, IN HIS TRUTH, AND THAT HE HAS BY SOVEREIGN GRACE, OPENED OUR EYES TO THE GOSPEL.

1. LISTEN, WORSHIP IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT RESPONSE WHEN YOU SEE THE SAVIOR IN ALL OF HIS GLORY AND SPLENDOR AND TRANSCENDENCE.

\* I MEAN WHEN YOU SEE GOD, YOU SHOULD BE **CHANGED, AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SEEING** HIM VISUALLY, BUT WITH SPIRITUAL EYES AND HEARTS.

\*\* I LOVE THE RESPONSE OF THE SHEPHERDS AS THEY RETURN TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD. THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY GOOD EXAMPLES. THEY HAD A SONG IN THEIR HEARTS.

\*\*\* WHAT GOD HAD SAID, GOD HAD DONE, SO THEY RETURNED TO THEIR SHEEP, NEVER TO BE HEARD OF AGAIN, BUT NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

\*\*\*\* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY THE REGULATION THAT JOSEPH AND MARY OBEYED, LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE.

#### IV. THE REGULATION, (READ V. 21)

A. NOW 8 DAYS AFTER JESUS WAS BORN, JOSEPH AND MARY AS JEWS WERE OBEDIENT TO THE REGULATION GIVEN, THE LAW FOR **ABRAHAM'S SEED AND FOR ALL JEWS GIVEN IN GENESIS 17:12 AND LEVITICUS 12:3.**

\* AND THAT WAS FOR ALL JEWISH MALES TO BE CIRCUMCISED THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY.

\*\* AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT CHRIST BE CIRCUMCISED, FOR CIRCUMCISION WAS COMMANDED FOR ALL MALES WHO WOULD BE A **PART OF ABRAHAM'S HOUSEHOLD.**

\*\*\* WITHOUT IT JESUS COULD NOT HAVE IDENTIFIED WITH HIS PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH HE WAS OF PURE HEBREW BLOOD. HE WOULD FULFILL ALL THE LAW, HE WOULD FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. ALL O.T. REQUIREMENTS WERE FULFILLED BY THE PLAN OF GOD, IN THIS CASE THROUGH JOSEPH AND MARY.

\*\*\*\* HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE IN V. 21 THAT IS SIGNIFICANT, AND THAT IS BY THIS TIME IN JEWISH CUSTOM, THE OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE CHILD WAS DONE. AS WE LEARNED WITH ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH WITH JOHN WHEN HE WAS CIRCUMCISED.

1. AND HERE THE BABY IS OFFICIALLY NAMED JESUS. AND TWO THINGS STAND OUT TO ME WITH THAT.

\* **JOSEPH AND MARY'S OBEDIENCE, FOR MARY** WAS TOLD BEFORE THE CONCEPTION OF CHRIST IN HER WOMB THAT SHE WAS TO NAME THE BABY JESUS BY GABRIEL IN LUKE 1:31.

\*\* AND THEN JOSEPH AFTER THE BABY IS **CONCEIVED IN MARY'S WOMB IS TOLD BY THE** ANGEL OF THE LORD IN MATTHEW 1:21 (QUOTE IT).

\*\*\* SO JOSEPH AND MARY WERE OBEDIENT, **THEY DIDN'T TRY TO CHANGE ANYTHING** AROUND, BUT FOLLOWED THROUGH AND DID WHAT THEY WERE TOLD TO DO, UNLIKE US AT TIMES, AS WE ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE TOLD TO DO BY THE LORD AND HOW WE RATIONALIZE DISOBEDIENCE.

\*\*\*\* NOW UNDERSTAND THAT **JESUS' NAME IS** VERY IMPORTANT, IT DECLARES THE VERY REASON THAT HE WAS BORN.

2. FOR JESUS LIT. MEANS JEHOVAH IS SALVATION, HIS NAME COMMUNICATES HIS PURPOSE, TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

\* JESUS IS THE SAVIOR. HIS NAME COMMUNICATES DELIVERANCE. THERE IS DELIVERANCE BY HEROIC ACTION FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

**\*\* SO JESUS' NAME SHOUTS TO THE WORLD THE**  
HEROICS OF THE INCARNATION AND THE CROSS,  
THAT THE SON OF MAN HAS COME TO SEEK AND  
SAVE THAT WHICH IS LOST.

\*\*\* BELOVED THE INCARNATION OF JESUS  
SHOUTS SALVATION WITH A BOOMING LOUD  
SPEAKER.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) I ASK  
THE QUESTION, WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO  
JESUS?

\* IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS. IT  
IS NOT ENOUGH TO PEEK IN THE MANGER AND  
**SAY, "OH HOW NICE". WHAT A LOVELY SCENE.**  
IT GIVES ME SUCH GOOD WARM FEELINGS.

\*\* THE TRUTH IS, EVEN IF CHRIST WERE BORN IN  
BETHLEHEM A THOUSAND TIMES BUT NOT  
WITHIN YOU, YOU WOULD BE ETERNALLY LOST.

\*\*\* RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT ABOUT THE GLORIOUS INCARNATION WITHOUT THE LIVING CHRIST IS A YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO DARKNESS AND DESPAIR.

\*\*\*\* THE HOLY SPIRIT INCLUDED THIS STORY IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES SO WE WOULD NOT MISS THE POINT, THE REAL SAVIOR OF THE WORLD WAS NOT CAESAR AUGUSTUS, THE REAL SAVIOR IS JESUS, WHO CAME TO EARTH VEILED IN FLESH.

(2) AND AS YOU HAVE HEARD ME SAY REPEATEDLY IN LUKE 2, JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE, TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. AND IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THE HEINOUSNESS OF YOUR SIN, YOU WILL SEE NO NEED FOR A SAVIOR, TO BE DELIVERED FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

\* BUT IF YOU SEE THAT TODAY, TURN FROM YOUR SIN AND TURN TO THE SAVIOR FOR SALVATION. THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU. AND TRUST HIM, NOT SELF, NOT RELIGION, NOT YOUR GOOD DEEDS, BUT HIM ALONE.

\*\* YOUR RESPONSE TO THE SAVIOR WILL DETERMINE YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY.

\*\*\* SO WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE SAVIOR **TODAY? I HOPE IT'S THE RESPONSE OF THE SHEPHERDS.**

\*\*\*\* LAST OF ALL, BELIEVER, THE TRUTH OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST SHOULD LEAD US TO WITNESS AND WORSHIP. **THAT'S WHAT THE SHEPHERDS** DID, IN THAT ORDER, TO WITNESS AND TO WORSHIP.



(3) AND WE WITNESS BECAUSE WE HAVE GOOD  
**NEWS AND WE WORSHIP BECAUSE OF GOD'S**  
SOVEREIGN GRACE IN SAVING US THROUGH  
THAT GOOD NEWS.

\* BELIEVER, WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TODAY  
TO THE ADVENT OF THE SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST  
THE LORD? I TRUST IT IS TO WITNESS AND TO  
**WORSHIP. (LET'S PRAY)**