

Ready for Christmas
Week 4 outline
12.18.22
Luke 2:8-20

Preparing for the Promise: Our Savior and Lord

I. The Promise of God and the Response of the Shepherds

A. The Promise of God:

- "Good news ... great joy ... all people"
- "a savior has been born"
- "he is Christ, the Lord"

B. The Response of the Shepherds

1. They knew what to look for,
 2. They knew where to look
 3. They knew what it meant
 4. They knew how to respond
- they said "let's go and see"; so they hurried off
 - and when they did they found
 - they spread the news
 - and returned (to the flocks) glorifying and praising God

II. Preparing: Heading Down the Path to Rejoicing

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

How can we live a life of rejoicing this season rather than one of fear, regret, worry, complaining, and arguing?

1. Rejoicing is a choice of faith

- that steps forward into God's promise
- if we want less rejoicing, stay where we are- don't make any moves- cross our hands and stay put.

2. Rejoicing is an overflow of grace

- that is provided to us through the finished work of Christ
- the Gospel is good news that causes great joy
 - the word Joy: "xara" comes from in the word Grace "xairo"
 - rejoicing is the joy of grace manifesting itself in our lives, by faith

3. Rejoicing spreads through sharing

- that flows from the belief that what we've found is worth telling others about
- the Gospel is good news that causes great joy... for all people

4. Rejoicing is lived out in the ordinary

- it brings God's remarkable presence into our seemingly unremarkable events
- "rejoice in the Lord, always" Phil 4:4
- it allows us to glorify and praise God rather than ourselves
through self-promotion and self-glorification
- we get to praise God and go to work

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THAT OVERFLOWS FROM GRACE.
IT SPREADS THROUGH SHARING
AND IS LIVED OUT IN ORDINARY LIFE

III. The Promise Fulfilled in Bethlehem

- Jesus called all his disciples to come and see, and promised that when we seek we will find, the gospel is good news that saves, and it sanctifies the ordinary

500 years before the coming of Jesus, the Prophet Micah wrote:

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans[b] of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."*

-Micah 5:2