

Love Came Down

The Glory of the Nativity — Luke 2:1-20
December 16, 2018

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. —**Luke 2:19-20**

I. THE TIME CAME TO GIVE BIRTH

- The first registration under Quirinius, who was under Caesar Augustus (vss. 1-2; Acts 5:37).
- Mary traveled from Nazareth of Galilee to Bethlehem of Judea for political reasons, but most importantly, for prophetic reasons (Isa. 9:1-2; Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:1-6).
- “The time came for her to give birth” means more than Mary’s ninth month (Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:7-10).

II. SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

- Shepherds were on the low end of the socio-economic scale in Jewish culture.
- Angels announced the news and glorified God for a great act that did not have them as its aim (Heb. 1:7, 2:5, 2:16; 2 Peter 2:4-11).
- They both now know the great news—Christ who is Lord has been born (vs. 9, 11, 15, 23).

III. FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

- The shepherds feared the angels, but now was not a time for fear, but for great joy. Love drives out fear (vs. 10; 1 John 4:18).
- A message to the world, from the angels, through the shepherds, for the manifold glory of God (vs. 20).
- Jesus’ advent brought peace between God and humans—but only those with whom he is pleased (Matt. 10:34-39; Rom. 8:5-8).
- Mary pondered these things in her heart. Do you?

KNOW: The glory of the nativity is that peace is possible between God and humankind—but only to those with whom he is pleased.

DO: Ponder these things. Be one with whom God is pleased.

Suggested Reading:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Experiencing the Peace and Promise of Christmas by Nancy Guthrie and others (LifePoint Library #394 GUT)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Luke 2:1-20

1. Summarize the events of this narrative. Why do you think the narrative includes so many historical details?
2. Do you notice how everything in the narrative speaks of lowly things? A peasant couple who are unwed, a little village, a manger, shepherds, ending again with the peasant woman, Mary. Why, do you think?
3. The news is for all the people (vs. 10). But why does God’s favor rest only with those with whom he is pleased (vs. 14)?
4. Read vs. 18. Who are “all those who heard it” and what were they wondering about?
5. Notice all the glorifying of God going on in this narrative? Why?
6. What is the good news of this event? How would you tell it to a non-believer?