

December 18, 2016
Luke 2:8-20

EXTRAORDINARY ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

I Introduction:

II. God _____ Us No Matter How Others View Us

Shepherds were viewed as: dishonest, unclean,
outcast, and sinners.

III. God _____ Us No Matter Where We Are

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields
nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night” Luke
2:8

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth
to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to
him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9

*“He came from splendor to be born in poverty. He left
the presence of angels, for the company of me. He laid
down a scepter in heaven to be laid in a manger, and
exchanged the worship of arch-angels for the praise of
lowly shepherds. He walked into the world with all the
power of Almighty God at his bidding, but he was
carried out a mutilated body lowered from a cross.”
(Morton Kelsey)*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

IV. Encountering Jesus _____ Us For The Better

A. You Don't Have To Be Afraid.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and **they were terrified.** ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid.** I bring you good news of great joy that will **be for all the people.** Luke 2:9-10

B. We Need and have a Savior and Lord.

"Today in the town of David **a Savior** has been born to you; he is **Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:11

C. We become witnesses.

"When they had seen him, **they spread the word** concerning what had been told them about this child." Luke 2:17

D. We become worshippers.

"The shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising** God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:20

V. Conclusion and Application:

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of December 18th to 24th
Extraordinary Encounters with God
Luke 2:8-20

Open It:

1. *What is the most unique birth announcement you've ever seen?
2. What do you imagine angels look like?
3. If you could sleep out under the stars anywhere in the world, where would you put down your pillow?

Explore It:

4. At what time and place did the angels appear to the shepherds? (2:8)
5. How many angels did the shepherds see at first? (2:9)
6. How did the shepherds react when they saw the angel? (2:9)
7. To whom did the angel address his good news? (2:10)
8. *What message did the angel tell the shepherds? (2:10, 12)
9. Who did the angel say the newborn child really was? (2:11)
10. *By what symbol or sign were the shepherds supposed to identify the Christ child? (2:12)
11. How many angels did the shepherds hear praising God? (2:13)

12. *What was the immediate reaction of the shepherds after the angels left? (2:15)
13. After finding the Christ child, what did the shepherds do? (2:17-20)
14. What kind of reactions did the shepherds get when they told others what had happened that night? (2:18)
15. How did Mary respond to the shepherds' visit? (2:19)

Get It:

16. If you had been with the shepherds on the night Christ was born, what would you have done after the angels left?
17. In what ways did the shepherds obey God that night?
18. *What should be our response when we discover what God wants us to do?
19. What does it mean that Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"?
20. Of what significance is it that the shepherds went back to their flocks?
21. *What is the responsibility of those who "discover" the good news about Jesus?
22. Who needs to be told about the birth and life of Christ?

Apply It:

23. In what ways can you renew your enthusiasm for the message of Jesus' birth?
24. *How can you glorify and praise God with other Christians this week?