

Awe and Wonder

"The Shepherds"

Luke 2:8-20

Sermon Proposition

Followers of Jesus can stand in awe and wonder with the shepherds because the Gospel comes to everyone

Introduction

1) Why Shepherds: A Gospel for All People

2) What Happens When Shepherds Fail... or Worse?

3) What We Can Receive from the Shepherds

Open It!

When have you felt so low that you felt you were beyond the reach of God's grace and love?

How has God shepherded you through your low times? What can you understand about God's love for you through it?

Read It!

Read Luke 2:8-20

Consider It!

What do you think is the significance of the testimony of shepherds to the birth of Jesus the Messiah? Does it help or hinder the credibility of the witness?

Look in a few different versions of the Bible at verse 9. What do you think is indicated about where the angel appeared? Do you usually picture the angel to be on the ground or in the sky?

How do the following passages help us to understand God's choice of shepherds to lead His people? Why do you think God's heart is inclined to lead through shepherds?

- Exodus 3:1-2 (see Acts 7:23-30 for the time passage of 40 years)
- 1 Samuel 16:11-13 (see also 1 Samuel 17:34-37, 2 Samuel 12:1-6)
- Amos 1:1 (see also Amos 7:10-16)
- 1 Peter 5:1-4

How did the arrangement of the "manger for a cradle" reinforce the statement that this is good news of great joy for all people to the shepherds?

What did the shepherds do in response to their experience (v 17-20)?

Go Deeper!

Read Ezekiel 34. This speaks of the abusive shepherds who don't care for their flock. Why is the role of an abuser as a leader such a dangerous combination?

How have we failed to deal appropriately with abusive leaders in the home and in the church?

What can we do on this side of eternity to right those wrongs and to care for those who have been abused in the flock?

Live It!

What is the message and will of God for us in light of the fulfillment of the prophetic writings?

With whom can you share the fulfillment of the prophetic hope that might need encouragement in their Christian faith or evidence of a God who loves and cares about them?

Close in Prayer