
Celebrating Peace

Luke 2

What's so good about Christmas?

Isaiah 9:1-6, "...Prince of Peace." (NIV)

Luke 2:8-15. This is what Christmas is all about, our reason to celebrate. It reads:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

What's so good about Christmas? Good News of Peace

First Good News of Christmas: The Gift is Free

God chose to share the greatest announcement in history to shepherds, not kings.

Isaiah 11:1

Second Good News of Christmas: The Gift has Power

In the middle of the dark night the shepherds were afraid, yet the angels said, "Fear not".

Ephesians 2:14-16

Third good news of Christmas: The gift is found in Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

"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. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

I wonder, how might you respond to the invitation to discover Jesus?

First Barrier: Wrong Family

Yet, Jesus entered with hope into a family with a broken history.

Second Barrier: Wrong Town

Yet, Jesus was born into the small village of Bethlehem, a humble manger for a bed, and grew up in an area of Nazareth that was considered a poor country town.

Third Barrier: Wrong Time

Yet, the Christmas story is one filled with good interruptions...

Fourth Barrier: Wrong Connections

Yet, the first people to hear the good news of Christmas were the least likely in the eyes of the world.

What's so good about Christmas?

- + The gift is free

- + The gift has power

- + The gift is Jesus

Communion in a Messy Manger

His love is...

1. **Humble:** enters the poverty of humanity with good news.
2. **Vulnerable:** Jesus cries as a baby - we can reject Him or respond.
3. **Near:** not a distant God telling us what to do from far away.