

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2023

Monday, 12/25 at 10:00

Your **Best Ever Advent** and **Christmas**  
**Part 8: Travel; Birth; Shepherds;**  
**Told Others**

*It's Not Too Late!*

*Get a Booklet*

*Use It Every Day*

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Text: NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As we continue through the Advent – Christmas booklet, this sermon, **part 8 of 9**, focuses on the Christmas story from **Luke chapter 2**.

**Day 21 – Sat, 12/23 – Traveling to Bethlehem to Register**

**Read and Think:** **Luke 2:1-5** Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census [a registration, an enrollment] be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria [first time as governor – between 12 and 2 BC].

And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea [a trip of about 90 miles (maybe 4 days: 2.5 miles per hour for 8 hours each day)], to the city of David [the birthplace of David] which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David [being a descendant of David through his son, Solomon], in order to register along with Mary [a descendant of David through his son, Nathan], who was engaged to him, and was with child.

## **Answer and Pray:**

- The requirement to travel to Bethlehem: It was difficult, *but God used it to fulfill the prophecy in [Micah 5:2](#)* (see part 4 of this series for more).
- Difficulties in our lives: When they come, let us remember: **God** ♣ is aware, ♣ has a purpose, and ♣ is causing all things to work together for good *to those who love Him* ([Rom. 8:28](#)).

## Day 22 – Sunday, 12/24 – **Christmas Eve** – *Jesus Is Born*

**Read and Think**: [Luke 2:6-7](#) While they were there [in Bethlehem], the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in [a manger](#) [*a trough for feeding animals*], because there was no room for them in the inn.

## **Answer and Pray:**

- The Word made flesh: He was carried by a young humble virgin woman; then, she gave birth in an area where animals lived. Jesus, **THE GREATEST**, came in great humility to save everyone – ***from the least to the greatest!***
- Are you aware of your great need for Jesus? Do not be deceived, He is **THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN** ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#))!

**HYMN**: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, LSB 393

## Day 23 – Mo, 12/25 – **Christmas Day** – *Good News for All*

**Read and Think**: [Luke 2:8-11](#) In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And [an angel](#) [*a messenger*] of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring

you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

**Answer** and **Pray**:

- Shepherds were unimportant: But God loved them and sent His Son to save them. **God loves you too!**
- Angel → glory → fear: When the awesome angel appeared, and then the glory of the Lord – *a revealing of His great power*, they experienced the natural reaction of **fright!**
- Almighty God, merciful Father: Those words begin our DS-3 confession.
  - Since we have sinned, God being almighty *should terrify everyone!*
  - But for all who know Jesus, *the Almighty God has become their merciful Father!* Our fear has been replaced with **peace** and **joy!**

**HYMN:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, LSB 380

**Day 24 – Tu, 12/26 – *The Shepherds Believed, Saw, and Told***

**Read** and **Think**: **Luke 2:15-19** When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

## **Answer and Pray:**

- **The shepherds believed**: They didn't go to Bethlehem to *see if it happened*, they went to ***see Christ THEIR LORD!***
- **Amazing** – *the Son of God put on flesh for you and me!*
  - Do you believe it?
  - If so, are you trusting in Jesus for eternal life?
- **The shepherds told others**: Because they believed, *they told!*
  - Do you believe?
  - Are you telling?
- **People “wondered”, and Mary “treasured”**: What are you going to do? You have several choices regarding Jesus:
  - Assume He is a fraud – *and reject Him!*
  - Remain unsure – *and do nothing!*
  - Be curious – *and read the Bible!*
  - Be happy – *because He is your Savior and Lord!*
  - Tell others – *because you know everyone needs Jesus!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, even before the first sin, You planned to save us; then, when the time was right, Your Son was born to die – *for us and all!* **TYSM!** Enable us to keep being in Christ and move us to be like the shepherds!

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