

## Good News of Great Joy

### Introduction

- God is the source of true joy – everything good comes from Him (Gal. 5:22-23; Neh. 8:10)
- Joy is found in God's presence (Ps. 16:11), God's name, works & word (Ps. 89:12; 92:4; 119:111), salvation (Ps. 51:12), God's forgiveness (Ps. 51:7-8), protection (Ps. 5:11-12), deliverance (Ps. 105:43), one's spouse (Pr. 5:18), justice (Pr. 21:15) & children are a cause for joy (Ps. 113:9; 127:3).
- The birth of Jesus is described as good news of great joy. Let's consider how God brings good news & great joy to us:

### I. Unlikely People & Events on Earth (Lk. 2:1-7)

- A. God uses unbelievers with great authority (v. 1-3)  
*Government was established by God for our good (Rom. 13). Officials may be strongly opposed to our beliefs, but God still uses them in His redemptive plans.*
- B. God expects us to obey those in authority (v. 4-5)  
*Unless we are told to disobey God, we should comply. Even when we don't agree with decisions, God is still at work.*
- C. Obedience may mean great sacrifice (v. 6-7)  
*The pathway to blessing & joy may not be comfortable or even reasonable. The birth of Jesus required great sacrifice of Joseph & Mary, but God was still working out a glorious plan – stable, manger, swaddling cloths (like bandages), etc.*

### II. Unexpected Visitors from Heaven (Lk. 2:8-14)

- A. The gospel message is sent to unusual places/people (v. 8-9)  
*These shepherds were working the night shift (1Co. 1:26-29). Just like any other night at work except God intervenes. God can intervene **anytime, anywhere** & with **anyone**. The gospel can reach people on jobs, schools... Don't give up...*
- B. The gospel message is greater than people expect (v. 10-14)  
*People had been waiting for the Savior for hundreds of yrs... He is finally here "this day" as the Savior of sinners (v. 11). Only God can save your soul; only God can forgive sins & He's here now. This is **Good News** for all who hear it from their heart & **Great Joy** for all who believe in their heart!*

### III. Unplanned Obedience from the Heart (Lk. 2:15-20)

- A. Discerning when the Lord speaks (v.15)  
*"which the Lord has made known to us" implies they knew this was not just something spectacular, but these were messengers of the Lord. Can you discern when God is speaking to you? Watching a movie, general conversation, dream, sickness, storm, preacher, teacher...*
- B. Obedience in faith (v. 16-20)  
*Even though these shepherds were at work & they were not high in society nor were they religious leaders, but they obeyed God in faith. They **went**, they **found** Jesus, they **told** the story to others & returned **praising** God! If you **seek** Jesus, you will **find** Him. Once you find the Jesus & he saves you, you have **tell** others & **praise** God for the good news that brought you great joy. What people do with the good news is out of your control – some people may be **amazed** about you & the gospel, some may **ponder** in their hearts, some may **doubt** & others will **believe**. But you must tell the good news.*

**When Jesus was born, God sent angels to tell the world about the good news = gospel; tell the world the Savior has been born; tell the world He's here to take away your sins; tell the world Is. 9:6; tell the world it's time for great joy –the greatest joy of all time & eternity = Jesus is born. Go tell it! Go tell somebody the good news...**

## CONCLUSION

Go tell it in your home, job, school, adults, children, parents, grandparents, all your relatives, friends/enemies, neighbors, wealthy/poor, young/old, males/females, Jews/ Gentiles... We have good news of great joy – the Savior has come; His name is Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins; Immanuel (God with us). He was born the King of glory. Glory to God in the highest & on earth peace, good will toward men.

For every Christian here, you entered the season of joy in your life the very day & hour that God by the power of the HS converted you & brought into the kingdom of God. At that time Jesus gave you joy that can never be taken away by this world & this world's system. This season of joy will continue throughout this life & into eternity where joy will never end! So my brother & sister let's praise God together for great things He has done and great joy He has given us. Glory to God in the highest; great is the Lord & greatly to be praised...

If you are not a Christian, you have a tremendous opportunity to know this joy for yourself; to experience this season of joy personally. But you must believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus. He is the only Savior & will save your soul, but you must believe.

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