

MESSAGE NOTES

“BELIEVE ~ THE GREATEST STORY EVERY TOLD”

12.29.24

PART VI

¹⁵When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. **²⁰The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.** – Luke 2:15-20 (NLT)

¹Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, **²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”**

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country

by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. – MATTHEW 2:1-12

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE SHEPHERDS & THE WISE MEN?

- To be _____ to the things of God
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” – MT 2:2
“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.” – PS 19:1-4
“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” – ROM 1:20
- To be _____ the things of God
“Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see...” – LK 2:15
“This is what the Lord says... If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me..” – JER 29:10-13
“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” – MT 6:33
- To be _____ to the things of God
“The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.” – LK 2:20
“When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.” – MT 2:12
“Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” – JAS 1:22