



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

The Gospel of John Sermon Series

Supports Session 4: You Will Find

Sermon Title: "Good News of Great Joy" (Luke 2:1-15)

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### Connection to Session 4

The beauty of the good news is that He has come down to us. Luke 2:1-15 begins to explain how Jesus came down to earth.

### Introduction/Opening

Christmas is a wonderful reminder of the fact that God has not left us in our sins but has come down. Jesus came to earth, born as a lowly baby in a manger, to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and rise from the dead. The events surrounding Jesus's birth are historical and should produce joy in our lives as we share the gospel with others.

### Outline

1. The Historical Setting (2:1-3)
  - a) Luke anchors the story of God coming down in true history. The story of Christ's birth is no made-up fairy tale.
2. The Travel to Bethlehem (2:4-5)
  - a) In verse 1, we are told that "a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered." This decree meant that Mary and Joseph should travel to Bethlehem to be registered.
  - b) This decree was not solely for the Roman government to see how many people they oversaw; it was done so that Scripture might be fulfilled. Micah 5:2-5 speaks of the Messiah being born in Bethlehem. God used the Roman government to accomplish His plan and purpose. Even in the seemingly small details of life, God is working.
3. The Messiah's Humble Birth (2:6-7)
  - a) Luke's description of Jesus's birth does not include anything majestic or mighty. In fact, Luke described how lowly of a place the King of the Universe was born in, a manger. The King of the Universe was not born in a palace, but in an obscure village outside of Jerusalem and placed in a manger.
  - b) In 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul speaks of how the Lord told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." God reveals Himself through what we might consider a weakness or insignificant, pointing to His grace.

#### 4. The Angelic Announcement (2:8-14)

- a) Instead of the Messiah's birth being announced in a king's court, it is announced to shepherds. Shepherds were of a low economic class. In Luke 1, Mary sang of how God lifts the lowly (v. 52).
- b) There are two characteristics of this announcement: Glory and Fear.
  1. Glory. In verse 9, we are told that "The glory of the Lord shone around them." This glory is representative of God's presence, like Old Testament imagery of God's glory going before the people in the Exodus. Here God's glory is on display at the moment of this announcement.
  2. Fear. These hardened shepherds were filled with fear. This is what happens in the Scriptures when people encounter angels.
- c) The announcement: good news of great joy. The announcement brings good news of great joy because of who the baby is: Savior, Christ, the Lord.

#### 5. The Shepherds Reaction: Go and Tell (2:15-18)

- a) Those who heard were filled with wonder. They go and tell others.
- b) Who are we telling that the Savior, Christ the Lord has been born?

### **Conclusion**

The beauty of Christmas is that God came down to us. With whom are we sharing this good news of great joy?

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