

Avent Week 3: Joy

Luke 2:8-20 *Good News of Great Joy*

Advent reading: Psalm 5:11

=>joy of a Christmas present but more joy in the relationship with people. Gifts give us memories of the people who gave them to us (this is why they gain in sentimental value).

***The joy of the gospel is that now all people have a Savior**

I. The Message was Delivered (2:8-14)

- A. Angels appear
 - 1. Messengers
 - 2. Message came from God in heaven to mankind on earth
- B. Shepherds in the field
 - 1. Nearby in a field
 - 2. Watching, but not necessarily sleeping
 - 3. Scared by the sight of the angels
 - 4. Not the first choice for a messenger of God
- C. The message: A savior is born
 - 1. Good news (the gospel) of great joy
 - 2. For all people (Gen. 12:3, Abrahamic Covenant)
 - 3. City of David, Savior, Christ the Lord
 - 4. Peace among those who please God

II. The Gift was Received (2:15-16)

- A. Let's go to Bethlehem
 - 1. Nearby but it's still night
 - 2. Went immediately; with "haste"
- B. Found Mary and the baby
 - 1. Given a sign by the angels
 - 2. Shepherds not intimidated by a barn; may be by a palace

III. The Joy was Shared (2:17-20)

- A. Told them everything
 - 1. The message of the angels
 - 2. Told to people "publicly"

3. Wondered = "marveled"
- B. Mary treasured these things
 1. Didn't marvel because she knew the truth
 2. Pondering = "meditating" as to how this would all go
- C. Shepherds praised and glorified God from there on
 1. Returned to their fields and lives
 2. Told the gospel as they went
 3. All motivated by the joy of (God's) hope and love becoming real for them

IV. Live It Out

- A. Do you realize your need for a Savior? Praise Him or accept Him
- B. How do you share the "good news" of Christmas (Christ)? Eventually, you must use words.

V. => Chester Szurber, heart recipient [A father receives his daughter's heart as a transplant. Chester Szuber (58) received his daughter, Patti's (22) heart after she died in a car accident.]