Not Who We Would Have Told

Message Overview: The story of the birth of Jesus was told to shepherds by a host of angels. The shepherds feel like unlikely candidates to receive this glorious news. Although this may seem unexpected, it communicates that the gospel message is for all people.

Key Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Content

Key Takeaway: The message of Jesus is for all people.

Key Points:

- It was unexpected that Jesus' birth announcement came to shepherds (8-14)
    - Shepherds were viewed as outcasts in society, they were unclean and viewed as dishonest because they were known to engage in theft with travelers.
    - Shepherds were not viewed as credible witnesses in court because of how they would spend time separated from the community in open fields
    - To be a shepherd in the first century was a despised occupation
- It was unexpected for these shepherds to spread the news about Jesus' birth (15-19)
    - The shepherds were not just told about this birth announcement; they went to see Jesus Himself. An ordinary night turned out extraordinary for them.
    - But the shepherds not only saw Jesus, God used them to spread the word about Jesus. All who heard were amazed.
    - Outcasts in society were the ones that God used to spread the word about His Son.
- The unexpected resulted in worship to God (v 20)
    - This unexpected night for the shepherds turned into worship to God

Gospel Proclamation: Luke 2:10-11: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Connect these verses in Luke 2 to the gospel. The gospel is an announcement of good news. The message of Jesus is for everyone including the shepherds and including you. His death and resurrection have the power to save anyone who would surrender their lives to Him and that is truly good news.

Key question/application: Who do I need to share Jesus with this Christmas season?

Application

Activity Suggestions

- List out one person (it can be more) that you can pray for and share Jesus with? What might that look like? How can your community group support you in that? Maybe create some time in the message for students to do this and then bring these names to their community group to pray over.
- Hand out Christmas invite flyers – consider ways to commission students to pray for one person and pass them the flyer in school or in another environment?

Community Group Questions

- Why is the message of Jesus such good news to us? What was the bad news?
- Why was it unexpected for the shepherds to receive the birth announcement of Jesus? What made this announcement so glorious?
- How can you bring the gospel to someone this Christmas season, maybe even in unexpected ways? Who around you needs to hear this message that will cause “great joy for all people”?
- What would it look like to glorify and praise God just like the shepherds did during this season and beyond?