

Leader Notes – Renew the Wonder

Through the Eyes of the Shepherds – Luke 2:8-18

This December, we will be teaching through a sermon series entitled, “Renew the Wonder”. In it we will examine three encounters with the divine through the eyes of real people during the days surrounding Christ’s birth: The Magi, The Shepherds and Mary, the mother of Jesus. What was their response when God revealed himself to them? What was it like? How did they respond? Our hope is that as we see the proclamation of Christ’s birth through their eyes, wonder would be renewed for ourselves.

1. Experiencing the Divine (v.8-11)

- The anticipation of the birth of Messiah had been in the making since its first hint after the fall of Adam of Eve (Gen 3:15). Even the angels were anticipating the birth of the one who would fulfill the plan of God who would be a means of reconciling man to God.
- What is the significance of the words used to describe this child: “Savior” and “Christ the Lord”?
- Why was this such anticipated news?

2. Verifying its Significance (v.12, 15-16)

- God provided a sign to identify the child who would be the Christ. The shepherds would find a child born that very night, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger (v.12). The Shepherds immediately departed to verify this proclamation by finding the child (v.15-16).
- What are the more complete signs of verification we have now concerning the “Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (e.g. His teaching, Miracles, His predicted death on the cross, His resurrection, the inauguration of the Church, etc.)?
- Discuss how these signs give evidence to the veracity of Christ our Savior and thus bolster our confidence of faith.

3. Spreading the Good News (v.17-18)

- Verses 17-18 give us a simple model of evangelism:
 1. The Shepherds “made known...” (v.17)
 2. The People “wondered...” (v.18)
- How can we make known the truth about Jesus during this Christmas season?
 1. Through our direct testimony about Jesus
 2. Through the testimony of our lives
 - How do we prioritize our lives according to the values of the gospel?
 - How do we respond in faith to life’s ups and downs?
 - How do we love people that are difficult to love?
 - How do we sacrifice on behalf of others?
 3. The above questions anticipate a generalized answer. How can we take this a step further by personalizing our discussion?
 - Are there areas in my life that should be re-prioritized?
 - Am I currently experiencing something that causes me to question faith?
 - Is there someone in particular that I struggle to love with the love of God?
 - Is there a particular way I can serve a specific person this week in the name of Jesus?