
Series: A Christmas Surprise
The Shepherds' Surprise

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

1. THE SHEPHERDS WERE SURPRISED WHEN THE ANGEL APPEARED.

v. 9 "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

- The Shepherds had no prerequisite qualifications to be used of God.
- The surprising appearance of the angel first brought fear.
- The fear turned into excitement as the heavenly host sang.

2. THE SHEPHERDS WERE SURPRISED AT THE NEWS THEY WERE GIVEN.

v.10-11 "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

- The Shepherds had to be surprised that God would choose them to deliver this good news.
- The Shepherds had to be surprised that God would send a savior as a baby.
- The Shepherds had to be surprised that God would choose Bethlehem for this world changing event.

3. THE SHEPHERDS WERE SURPRISED THAT GOD COULD USE THEM.

v. 17-18 "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

Lessons Learned from the Shepherds on Being Used of God:

- We must always be ready to be used of God.
- When God reveals Himself to us, we must immediately respond with obedience.
- The Good News of the Gospel cannot be contained.
- God is no respector of persons; he will use even you and me.

Acts 10:34 (NIV)

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism."

We may be surprised that God would use us, but wants us to join Him in His mission.