

I. Introduction: Jesus' birth is the greatest news the world has ever heard; it was the beginning of man's salvation and the end of Satan's oppressive reign over the world.

- A. There have been some amazing moments in human history, but the announcement of Jesus' birth has been by far the greatest news that mankind has ever received.

II. Good News of Great Joy! (Luke 2:8-20)

A. Recipients of Good News (**vv. 8-9**).

1. The shepherds were the most unlikely people to receive a message from God; they were the most unimportant, unclean, untrustworthy, and insignificant people.

B. Rejoicing in Good News (**vv. 10-14**).

1. The angels told the shepherds they had good news that would bring them great joy, because a Savior had been born for them in Bethlehem.

C. Relaying of Good News (**vv. 15-20**)

1. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see what the angels had proclaimed. And when they had found Jesus, they heralded the Good News to everyone.

III Conclusion: Jesus is the reason that Christmas is good news that brings great joy. Without Jesus as the focal point of this holiday, there is no hope and no rejoicing.

Questions About: Good News of Great Joy!

1. What is the best news you have ever received? You got the job? You are getting a promotion? She said yes? You are pregnant? Your cancer is in remission?
2. Who were the first people to hear the news of Jesus' birth? (**Luke 1:26-35; Matt 1:18-25**) How did it change their lives? What did Mary do when she heard the news? (**Luke 1:46-56**)
3. Why did the angels come and make this announcement to shepherds? (**Isa 61:1-2; 1 Cor 1:26-29**) Why were shepherds looked down upon? Why were they considered unclean?
4. What does it mean that the angel "suddenly" stood next to them? (**Luke 2:9**) What was the Good News of great joy? Who was this news for? (**Luke 2:10**) Why is that important?
5. Why is it significant that Jesus is a "Savior"? (**Luke 2:11**) What does this tell us about humanity's greatest need? What did Jesus come to rescue people from? (**John 1:29**)
6. What does the response of the shepherds demonstrate about their attitude? (**Luke 2:15-20**) Why were they so excited to find this child? How did they frantically search for Him? (**v. 16**)
7. How was the announcement of Jesus' birth bad news for others? (**Matt 2:1-12**) Why did Herod respond very differently than the shepherds? Why did it produce despair in him?
8. How would you have responded to the news that Jesus was born? (**Luke 2:15-20**) What does Jesus want to do with your sin? What does He want to give you? Is that Good News to you?

Prayer

1. Will you pray that God would cause you to rejoice at the coming of Jesus?
2. Will you ask God to help you to herald the Good News to others who need Jesus?