



COPING WITH CHRISTMAS "Shepherds' Christmas" Luke 2:8-20

No. 2505

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We all know that Jesus was cradled in a manger—a very humble start! The shepherds who first shared the gospel "lived in fields." Respectable people counted them untrustworthy. As Mary said—the Lord lifts up the humble. Still!

I. The Shepherds and the Glory. vv. 8-9

A. The visit from a divine messenger.

B. The vision of divine glory.

1. Glory (Gk. *doxa*): reputation, fame, moral beauty, honor.
2. God's glory: occasionally demonstrated by blinding light.
3. God's glory: regularly displayed in His character and actions.
 - a. Moses' request: "Show me your glory." Exodus 33:18f
 - b. God's answer: NOT "what I look like" BUT "what I am."
 - c. "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you."
 - d. "I will proclaim my name (JAHWEH)."
 - e. "I will have mercy...compassion...on whom I will."

C. The virtue of divine fear—"the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10

II. The Shepherds and the Gospel. vv. 10-16

A. Receiving the good news.

1. Centered in a Child. vv. 10, 12

a. Good news that is:

- i. Fear-banishing.
- ii. Joy-giving.
- iii. Life-transforming.

b. Good news about:

- i. Savior.
- ii. Messiah.
- iii. Lord.

2. Focused on the Lord. vv. 13-14a

- a. "Glory to God in the highest."
- b. Heaven recognizes God's glory in the baby's birth.
- c. Heaven's hosts express their appreciation of God's glory.

3. Applied in the world. vv. 14b

- a. "On earth, peace..."
 - i. Peace with God. Romans 5:1
 - ii. Peace of God. Philippians 4:6-7
- b. "...to men on whom his favor rests."

B. Repeating the good news. v. 17

1. What they had seen and heard.
2. With great enthusiasm and praise.

C. Reflecting on the good news. v. 19

Points to Ponder: Does the good news generate great joy for me? Does it show?