



DON'T BE AFRAID: JESUS IS HERE

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize Him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing Him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. (Luke 2:8-20)

- *"An angel of the Lord appeared . . . and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!'" (Luke 2:9-10)*
- **Fear is perhaps the most prominent and prevalent negative emotion people struggle with, and it robs people of joy, peace, relationships and success.**
- The Angel - *"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem . . .!"* (Luke 2:9-11)
- **Why should the birth of Jesus drive fear from our lives and bring joy to our lives?**

***We Can Live Joyful Rather Than Fearful Lives Because:
GOD LOVES US ENOUGH TO SEND US A SAVIOR***

- The Angel – *"The Savior . . . has been born today in Bethlehem."* (Luke 2:11)

- **We are all sinners by nature and by choice (Romans 3:10, 23) and our sinful attitudes and actions keeps us from God’s presence and purposes in our lives.**
- The Angel to Joseph – *“She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21)
- **When we receive Jesus as our Savior and/or commit our lives to Him, God forgives our sins, welcomes us into His family, and gives us the gift of eternal life.**
- *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)
- **To receive Jesus as our Savior or recommit our life to Him we must: 1) recognize our need for Him (John 1:12), 2) repent of our sins (Acts 3:19), 3) put our faith in Him (Romans 10:9-10), and 4) surrender our will and way to Him (Galatians 2:20).**

We Can Live Joyful Rather Than Fearful Lives Because:

GOD LOVES US ENOUGH TO SEND US A DELIVERER

- The Angel – *“The Savior – yes the Messiah . . . has been born today in Bethlehem.”* (Luke 2:11)
- **The Jews of Jesus’ day were looking for a Messiah who would deliver them from the oppression of the Roman empire.**
- **In our day some people are looking for freedom from human oppressors, but most people are looking for deliverance from their hurts, bad habits and “hang-ups.”**
- Jesus - *“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. . . . But if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”* (John 8:34, 36)
- **Jesus came to this earth not only to bring forgiveness from our sins but to also bring us freedom from the struggles and strongholds of our lives.**

We Can Live Joyful Rather Than Fearful Lives Because:

GOD LOVES US ENOUGH TO SEND US A LIFE-CHANGER

- The Angel – *“The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem.”* (Luke 2:11)
- **Jesus is the Lord over all creation (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17), but He is also the Lord over transformation.**
- *“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **When Jesus becomes the Savior, Messiah and Lord of our lives, He transforms our attitude, ambitions, actions and relationships.**
- *“Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But when God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of His grace He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.”* (Titus 3:3-7)

- *“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.’” (Luke 2:13)*
- **God is pleased when we make Jesus our Savior, Deliverer and Transformer, and when pursue meeting with Him like the Shepherds did (Luke 2:15-20), and when we do the Lord fills our lives with peace and joy.**
- ***What should be our response to the fact that Jesus came to our world in human form 2000+ years ago and lives today?***
- **Like the Shepherds, we should: 1) believe the Angel's message (Luke 2:15), 2) seek to have a personal encounter with Jesus (Luke 2:16), 3) tell everyone about who Jesus is and what He's done for us (Luke 2:17), and 4) spend some time this Christmas praising God and thanking Him for the gift of His Son (Luke 2:20).**
- ***What steps do I need to take this Christmas season in regards to my relationship with the Lord and my relationships with others?***