

CP— 12/15/24

Luke 2:8–20 – Glad Tidings: God Shared, We Share

1. God shared the glad tidings. (2:8–14)

- *Glad tidings because our sins are bad
- *Glad tidings for all people because all are in need
- *Glad tidings about the only Savior, Christ the Lord
- *God shares glad tidings completely of His grace; we should never take the gospel for granted.

2. We can only truly share what we personally experience. (2:15–16)

- *Some hear the truth but never experience it.
- *Some have an “experience” that doesn’t reflect the truth and doesn’t bring change.
- *True salvation comes from obeying the revelation of God’s truth.
 - God revealed His glory to the shepherds. (2:9)
 - The shepherds heard the glad tidings. (2:10–14)
 - They obeyed the message. (2:15)
 - The experienced Christ personally and were different. (2:16–20)

3. We must share the glad tidings. (2:17–20)

- *Many have never heard; we must tell them. (17)
- *Some need to hear again; we must share. (18–19)
- *Sharing the story leads to our joy and His glory. (20)

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon Sunday?
What stood out to you? What questions do you have?

2. Discuss the usual assumptions about the shepherds that may be right or wrong. Discuss how God often breaks in when we least expect it. What was the substance of the angel's message? How can we prevent from taking the gospel for granted?
3. What are the dangers of hearing the truth but never experiencing it or having an "experience" that is not based on the truth or connected to it? Discuss the relationship of truth and experience together in genuine salvation and how the shepherds are an example.
4. Who did the shepherds share with, and why is it important to notice these groups? Why does sharing the gospel of Christ's coming bring us joy and God glory?
5. Discuss what part of the Christmas story is your favorite, the most difficult to understand, and the part that brings you the most awe/joy. Pray and thank God for Christ's coming and the time with your small group this semester. Perhaps sing a Christmas carol together before you end your time together.