

**Sunday School Lesson**

December 19th, 1937

Lesson Text: Luke 2:1-20. Printed Passage Luke 2:8-20

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

R. A. CADLE

Every true Christian would naturally wish it were possible to make Christ as real as the men and women we see around us. He

is no dream, no mere vision, no fiction of the imagination, no far away ideal, but a fact and ever present Saviour, King and friend. But this is only information until we approach the manger with open minds and hearts and then believe. Once we truly believe the virgin birth, accept the Christ child as Saviour, information gives way to an experience with Him and out of this experience comes the true light of Christmas.

1. The birth of Jesus-Christ. In Luke 2:1 we read, "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." Observe how the ruler of

the civilized world is unconsciously bringing it about that the promised Messiah, the son of David, shall be born in Bethlehem, though his mother's home was in Nazareth. In Micah 5:2 we read the prophecy concerning the birth of Christ. "But thou, Bethlehem, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." The birthplace of David, was in fulfillment of this prophecy, also the birthplace of David's greater Son.

So in obedience to the decree Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem to enroll in view of a future taxation. When they arrived they found that there was no room at

the inn. Nothing was left for them but to occupy an empty stable. Here the greatest event in all history took place when Jesus was born and laid in a manger. Thus Luke gives the account in his own beautiful style. He does not argue the point but simply states a fact. Countless thousands have believed it and in believing they have God.

What does it all mean? It means simply that God has come to earth to show mankind the way to God. It simply means that "the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." "God so loved

the world that He gave His only gift thus laid in a manger, in the form of a babe, was to bring salvation to a lost world.

2. The announcement of birth. "And there were in that same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." These shepherds were the first to hear of the birth of Christ and they heard it through an angel. An angel is good and holy. Homer calls kings "the shepherds of the people." In Hebrew, Jesus is called "the great shepherd of the sheep." Jesus calls himself "The good shepherd." John 10:11. Peter calls Jesus "the chief shepherd." 1 Peter 2:25. Our word "pastor" means shepherd. An angel announces that in Bethlehem of Judaea is born a King, the good shepherd, the chief shepherd, a Saviour to seek and save the lost sheep. No wonder these shepherds said, "Let us go—and see."

As soon as this announcement had been made and the sign given as recorded in verse twelve, an angel appeared quite suddenly "in the attitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." What had happened? It was night but the "glory of the Lord shone round about them." An angel appeared in the midst of this light and spoke. Suddenly there was a multitude of these angels singing and praising God. No wonder the shepherds were afraid. Soon all fear was forgotten. The truth began to burn into their souls. God had come at last and they could not refuse to go and see Him. "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." They told Joseph and Mary about the angels, and all that had happened to them and then went back to their old task glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard. Yes, they went back to an old task but they were back new creatures in Christ Jesus. They continued as shepherds, no doubt, but they were from that hour watched over, and cared for by the great and good shepherd. They continue to watch over their flocks by night, no doubt—but it was in the perpetual light of the good shepherd's love. Christmas meant something to these shepherds and it can mean something to us today if we too will believe, receive and obey.

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**Library Musicale a Great Success**

The Kenansville Community Library staged a successful celebration program on its 17th anniversary here Friday, December 10th.

The program was in the form of a musicale, and consisted of some excellent numbers by the following: Glee Club; a vocal number by Mrs. Alderman; a vocal recitation by Mrs. E. Brown; Piano solo by Mrs. Brown; Warsaw quartet; vocal solo by Reba Pickett; Piano recitation by Rachel Bowman; vocal by Gilbert Honeycutt; Musical citation by Phoebe Harlan; vocal number by the Warsaw quartet; second number by the Glee Club.

Delicious refreshments were served, consisting of ice cream and cake. The occasion was deemed very enjoyable by those who attended.