

The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Receive God's Message (Luke 2:8-10)

I. Startling Event (Luke 2:8-10)
II. Joyous Message (Luke 2:11-12)

III. Glorious Song (Luke 2:13-14)

IV. Personal Appearance (Luke 2:15-16)

V. Deserve to Share (Luke 2:17-18)

VI. Pondering And Praise (Luke 2:19-20)

I. Startling Event (Luke 2:8-10)

While Jesus was being placed in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem the angels were bringing a message to shepherds tending their sheep. The glory of God shone all around them which caused them to be afraid. The angels told the startled shepherds that they were bringing to them good news as well as for the whole world.

That which had been foretold from the Garden of Eden and by the prophets had come to pass. Jesus, the Christ, was born. God did not send the angels to make the announcement to kings or royalty, but to a insignificant group of people. Among the priest and affluent people of Israel the Shepherds were least of all the people. God does not look at the folk that way. The shepherds needed to hear the good news, just as the outcast and down-trodden of the world today needs someone to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

II. Joyous Message (Luke 2:11-12)

The angles told the shepherds that Jesus had been born in the city of David. They gave the shepherds a sign that they would find the baby Jesus in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. The saviour came into this world under ordinary circumstances born unto ordinary parents.

III. Glorious Song (Luke 2:13-14)

After the announcement of Jesus' birth there was a multitude of angles singing and giving praises to the Lord. Finally there was peace and goodwill for all men. The message at Christmas is still good news for those who are seeking peace in their souls. Let us all keep foremost in our minds and hearts the reason for the season.

IV. Personal Appearance (Luke 2:15-16)

This astonishing news caused a stir among the shepherds and they made haste to find the baby Jesus. When people have an experience with God their lives are changed. What seemed so important before has less importance and priorities are changed. After the shekinah glory had faded, things around the shepherds were the same, but the faith had been stirred. Therefore, they acted on their faith and went to find Jesus.

The shepherds went expecting to

find the babe just as the angels had told them. When we act on faith and trust God, we will, like the shepherds, find that everything is just as God has promised it to be. God had a plan for Jesus' birth and it hinged on all involved being faithful to whatever part God had chosen for them to carry out.

V. Desire to Share (Luke 2:17-18)

After seeing what the angels told the shepherds they would find, they left spreading the good news to all that would listen. We are told that those who heard wondered at what they told. When people wonder about something, they usually will not seek to find out about it.

Many people hear the gospel because saved people want to share the good news, but many people wonder if it is true. Sometimes people may even think that we are insane to believe the story of a risen savior, Jesus Christ. When people act on the gospel then they are following God's plan for humanity.

VI. Pondering and Praise (Luke 2:19-20)

Mary meditated on the things that had taken place in her life. The God that she served was her baby in her arms... the same God who spoke to Moses in the burning bush, the same one who was a pillar of fire by night as Israel traveled from Egypt.

Often we ponder over what God has done in our lives, why Jesus would die for lost sinners like us so that we could have life eternal. We were out-casts but God came to us in our down-trodden condition and saved us for Christ's sake.

When Jesus comes into a person's heart and brings peace that passes all understanding, they are never the same again. God makes the difference that people are looking for. If you are not saved, there is good news for you. Jesus will save you and you can have the peace of god that passeth all understanding. This holiday season is an appropriate time to surrender your heart to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10.



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Carolina Indian Voice is published every Thursday by First American Publications 304 Normal St. - College Plaza Post Office Box 1075 Pembroke, North Carolina 28372 Phone (919) 521-2826 Fax (919) 521-1975 Connee Brayboy, Editor

Subscriptions
One year in NC, \$20.00
Out of state, \$25.00
Second Class Postage Paid at Pembroke, NC

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