

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Sermon: “The Simple & Effective Witness of the Shepherds”

Missions Sunday Pastor Dave Sattler NSAC January 30, 2022

Biblical Texts: Luke 8:8-20; Cf. Matthew 11:19, John 14:26-27

I. Introduction:

- In his opening, Pastor Dave quoted his trip to Israel teacher Q: “the Son of God became a son of men so sons of men can become sons of God.”
– Jack Beck, Oct 24/2013.
- How does this statement capture the heart of the Gospel?
- What is the sentiment of our culture these days about Christianity and/or Christian mission? Why? And, how does this make you feel?
- [Sorry it’s a long run-on question!] As Canada moves more and more toward extreme secularism, and most Christian churches function at the margins of society, how might the timeless Christian Story, in this cultural moment, appeal once again to modern Canadians with no idea of, or experience with, or baggage toward, Christianity?

II. READ Biblical Text: Luke 2:8-20

III. Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever felt stuck in a lousy job? Describe.
- Why do you think God first announced His coming to shepherds? What is the significance? Explain.
- The shepherd’s initial response to the private concert they received was fear (v9). How are we to approach/respond to God’s glory or presence?
- The angel calms the shepherds saying, ‘Don’t be afraid. We have “good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”’ (v10). Pastor Dave said, Q: “Sure, the Christian Story in our day is counter-cultural, but at it’s very core, it is still “good news [the best news] of great joy for all people!” Do you believe it!?! Discuss.

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- There is an urgency in the shepherd's response (v16). When/where have you witnessed this in your life or in the lives of others seeking after Jesus? Describe. Discuss.
- The shepherds simply shared what they'd "been told" and what they'd seen (v17/20). Pastor Dave said, Q: "It's not about memorizing catchy gospel presentations or 'getting people saved.' How might our encounters with Jesus fuel God's mission through us?"

IV. Life Applications & Questions:

A. ***God can make Himself known through anyone—even you!***

- Q: "One of the main 'side-liners' of Christian mission is the false idea that you have to be 'good enough' or 'have it all together' or 'get all your words right' before God can use you in mission."
- Have you ever felt like this? Explain.
- Name a particular family member, friend, or neighbour with whom you feel called to share your faith. Share with your group. Missions is a "team effort!" PRAY FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, & NEIGHBOURS.

B. ***Embody the Christian Story and explain when appropriate.***

- How do we embody and explain the Christian Story to family, friends, and neighbours in our day?
- Read John 14:26-27. When mission opportunities come, how might God the Holy Spirit provide help for us?

C. ***Find bridges (even unexpected ones) to connect with people.***

- How might the greatest bridge God provides come when we are most needy and have to count on others for a favour?
- How/why is human interaction all-the-more important in these days?
- Read Matthew 11:19. How do you like Jesus' nickname, "Friend of Sinners?" How does eating and drinking with others fit into the mission of Jesus?