

**JOY FOR THE LEAST EXPECTED**  
**Sermon Series: God's Final Plan: Christ**  
**Sermon Outline, Luke 2:9-18**  
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- + Luke 2:4-7, "Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (NKJV)
- The Greek New Testament word translated as "manger" is [φάτνη, fatne]. It is that refers to a \_\_\_\_\_ for farm animals.
  - The word Luke used for "inn" is the Greek New Testament word [κατάλυμα, kataluma]. This is not the traditional Greek word for inn as we think. The traditional word is [πανδοχεῖον; pandochion].
- + Luke 10:34, "And came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn (pandochion) and took care of him" (NASB).
- In Palestine, it was common for Jewish communities to set up temporary makeshift \_\_\_\_\_ along the major roads for these pilgrims or provide guest rooms to these pilgrims.
- + Luke 22:11, "And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room [kataluma] in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'" (NASB).
- + Luke 2:8-11, "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'" (NKJV).

**How Did God Bring Joy To The Least Expected?**

1. **God \_\_\_\_\_ all the important people that night for an invite to the birth.**
2. **God \_\_\_\_\_ all the people who were invited to the birth (vs. 8).**
  - + John 10:11a, "Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd'" (NLT).
  - + 1 Peter 5:4, "And when the Great Shepherd appears . . ." (NLT).
  - + Hebrews 13:20, "Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep . . ." (NLT).
  - + Ephesians 4:11, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers" (NLT).
    - It is the Greek New Testament word [ποιμήν; poimen], which means "shepherd, feeder and protector of sheep."
  - + 1 Corinthians 1:26-28, "Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup>Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup>God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important" (NLT).
3. **Those responsible for sacrificial lambs were invited to see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**
  - Rome took a census for two reason: enlistment for military \_\_\_\_\_ and government \_\_\_\_\_.

**Why Did Joseph & Mary Travel 70 Miles South To Bethlehem?**

- (a) You had to pay your taxes in your city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Those who owned property in another \_\_\_\_\_, had to go there to register and pay their taxes. Though Luke does not tell us if Joseph owned property in or around Bethlehem, it is possible he did. The men, (the heads of family) were required to register for military service and pay taxes.
- (c) Why does Mary go with Joseph? Women were required to pay a \_\_\_\_\_ as well, if their husbands owned property.

- (d) Why does Mary go? Mary went also to probably avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ of being pregnant and not married.
- (e) To fulfill this prophecy in Micah 5:2, "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity" (NASB). Bethlehem comes from two Hebrew words that mean "\_\_\_\_\_." This is amazing in that it parallels \_\_\_\_\_.
- (f) Joseph wanted to be there for the birth out of \_\_\_\_\_ to the angel's message to him in Matthew 1:18-25. See Deuteronomy 22:23-24.
- In Matthew 1:19, it says that Joseph "planned to send Mary away secretly." The Greek New Testament word is [ἀπολύω; apoluō]. This was a metaphor for \_\_\_\_\_.
- + *Isaiah 7:14, "All right then, the Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')"* (NLT).

**4. In the \_\_\_\_\_ given about Jesus (Luke 2:10-14).**

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:11). This is the Greek New Testament word [σωτήρ, soter].  
+ *Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost"* (NLT).
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:11). The Greek New Testament word is [Χριστός; christos]. This was a royal title for a king or Messiah. This comes from the Hebrew word [מָשִׁיחַ, mashiach]. It means "\_\_\_\_\_." See Daniel 9:25-26.
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:11). This is the Greek New Testament word [κύριος, kurios]. This is a term for someone in a high position of authority and respect. Slaves were expected to call their slave owners "lord." Soldiers were expected to call their commanding officers "lord." It was a term that describes \_\_\_\_\_ by the one who uses it. In fact, throughout the Greek translation of the Old Testament, more than 6,000 times, Yahweh is translated kurios.
- + *1 Corinthians 12:3, "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is accursed'; and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit"* (NASB).
  - + *Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (NASB).

**5. The shepherds \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus out and then \_\_\_\_\_ the news of about Him with others (Luke 2:15-18).**

- In Luke 2:18, the word translated as "wondered" is [θαυμάζω, thaumazo]. It means to be in the kind of "astonishment and admiration of" that does not cause \_\_\_\_\_, but only \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. In the sermon you were given a lot of background material that explained first century culture, traditions, circumstances, and environments. How do you see God working through this for Joseph and Mary to bring joy? How could God do the same for you today?
2. God disregarded all the popular, powerful and positional people of that day to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds through the angels. What does this tell you about God working today to bring joy to such people?
3. God dignified the shepherds, who were invited to the birth. Shepherds were at the bottom of the rung in that society. They were the least ones that people would have thought God would announce the birth of the Messiah. Who is that in our day who needs to experience God's joy and why?
4. It is amazing that those who were providers of sacrificial lambs in the Temple for the 3 major festivals: Passover, Tabernacles and Weeks (Pentecost), were invited to see God's final Sacrificial Lamb — Jesus. How do you think they felt and do you think they made this connection? Do you think this brought them joy?
5. The titles given about Jesus in Luke 2 are given to bring us joy. Babies usually bring joy. Why do you think the baby of Bethlehem does not always do that for some? Who this Christmas do you need to share Jesus with in the hope they come to know the Joy of Salvation?