

The World Needs Some Good News

Luke 2:11-12

Joseph travels from Nazarath to Bethlehem to register for the census and to pay taxes. He travels with Mary, to whom he is betrothed and pregnant. The only available accommodations are a barn, and Mary is about to give birth. There is no crib, cradle, or bassinet in which to lay the newborn, so he is placed in a trough.

Meanwhile, as shepherds are keeping sheep, a heavenly host appears. The glory of the Lord surrounds them and angels announce they have good news; the birth of the Christ child. The angels instruct them to seek the child and give them a sign how to find him. They tell the shepherds to look for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

God sent them a sign because otherwise they would not have known in which direction to start. We sometimes don't know where we are going, the direction, or what we will find without a sign from God.

That day was the day of our redemption, and the shepherds got a glimpse of the Lamb of God as a newborn baby. What if we had a glimpse of Jesus walking on water? Or feeding 5,000 with two small fish. Or seeing him ascend into heaven.

The paradox in this story is the baby king lying in a little lamb or little sheep's feeding box. God confounds human wisdom by doing the opposite of what we think should be done. The beauty of it is, that it works out just as he promises it will.

It was already prophesied that Jesus would be despised and rejected. He would suffer, be familiar with pain, and held in low esteem.

We are all a part of God's plan. Although we may be used, abused, and mistreated, God is consecrating us for his service. He separates us and then anoints us. Let us make a difference and shine in a dark world.