

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**Lessons Learned from The Shepherds – at  
the Birth of Mary’s Little Lamb**

**SERIES: GLORIES OF ADVENT**

**LUKE 2:8-20**

We have been preaching about the **Glories of the Advent**. We saw the glorious Gifts that the Wise men brought to Jesus:

**Gold** – speaks of His **Sovereign Dominion**

**Frankincense** – speaks of His **Sinless Deity**

**Myrrh** – speaks of His **Sacrificial Death**

Therefore, we learned what we should give Jesus this Christmas: Our **Wealth**, Our **Worship**, and our **Witness**.

Last Sunday we look at the glories of **Mary’s Little Lamb**. It was a Lamb of **Prophecy**, a Lamb of **History**, a Lamb of **Victory** and a Lamb of **Majesty**.

As we think about the birth Of Jesus it would be helpful to understand that the word translated “*manger*” (**Luke 2:7, 12, 16**) is translated “*stall*” in **Luke 13:15**, and can mean either a feeding trough or an enclosure for animals. You see ancient stone troughs even today as you travel in the Holy Land, and it is probable that such a trough cradled the Infant Jesus. Many scholars believe that our Lord was born in a cave where animals were sheltered and not in a wooden shed such as you see in modern manger scenes. Now also note that **Bethlehem** means “*house of bread*,” the ideal birthplace for the Bread of Life (**John 6:35**).

The Messiah came to be both the Good Shepherd (**John 10**) and the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world (**John 1:29**). Perhaps these shepherds were caring for the flocks that would provide sacrifices for the temple services and for Passover. It was fitting that the good news about God’s Shepherd and Lamb be given first to humble shepherds.

In order to understand how unusual, it was to have the angels appear to these lowly shepherds, let’s learn a bit about them:

- Considered ceremonially unclean
- Isolated and forgotten
- ♦ Known to be brash and bold

The Shepherds help us see that God has a message for **ALL MANKIND** just like us. **Everyone matters to God, AMEM!** And the only announcement of Christ’s birth goes out to a bunch of uneducated outcasts. As we briefly look at the shepherds’ response, **we’ll see some lessons that we can apply to our lives so that we don’t forget the Lamb of God this season.**

**I. Lesson One: THEY WERE ATTENTIVE**

The first thing we see about the shepherds is that they were attentive to their jobs look again at **V-8**.

**II. Lesson Two: THEY WERE AWED**

While they were being attentive to the responsibilities they were given, they are suddenly awed by an angelic announcement in **V-9**. God’s Shekinah glory lights up the sky and causes them to quake in their sandals.

**III. Lesson Three: THEY ACCEPTED**

The **attentive shepherds** are **filled with awe** and now they **accept the message of good news of great joy in Vs. 10-15**. The angel calms them down, telling them that he is bringing **good news or tidings** of acceptance, forgiveness and hope.

**IV. Lesson Four: THEY ACTED**

These shepherds didn’t just accept and enjoy the message they received, they acted upon it. **Look at v-16**. It says they came “**with haste**” which means they “**hurried off**”.

**V. Lesson Five: THEY ADORED**

**V-20** - what’s cool here is that the shepherds went back to their same boring jobs, but they weren’t the same on the inside. They returned to where they started and were attentive again. Notice that they didn’t write a book or go on a speaking tour or launch a ministry called “**A Shepherd’s Story**.”

Christmas is real history, but it must become your story **V-11**. I close with three questions:

- Is He “**Savior**” to you?
- Is He “**Christ**” to you?
- Is He “**Lord**” to you?