

Series: The Calls of Christmas

The Call to Come

December 23, 2018

1. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:8-12).

2. How do we treat people who are different than us? Do we sit with them? Do we get to know them? Do we perpetuate stereotypes? And harder still – what do we do with the people in our lives who have hurt us or who disagree with us? Do we think of them and interact with them as nothing more than the hurt they've caused us or the issue over which we don't agree? Or can we see them as more than just these things? Can we appreciate them as people – broken like ourselves – but also having their own beauty?

3. *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests"* (Luke 2:13-14).

4. *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about"* (Lk. 2:15).

5. *So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger...* (Lk. 2:16).

6. *When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them* (Lk. 2:17-18). And then... *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told* (Lk. 2:20).

7. They went to Bethlehem. They spread the word. They went back to work glorifying and praising God!

8. What are your particular fields and flocks? Family and friends, the ups and downs of life, frustrations and celebrations, joys and sorrows, illness and health?

9. The Christmas Scale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLLMafMzUSs>

10. *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart* (Lk. 2:19).

11.

When shall I tell you?

My Son, so content in my arms tonight
How I wish I could hold you forever, my Light!
When shall I tell you who gave you your Name,
That you and the Father are one and the same?
When should I tell you of the angel's words,
Of the night when seraph wings fluttered and stirred?
When shall I tell you that the stars above Earth
Danced in the heavens to herald your birth?
When should I tell you that you are a King,
That even the Magi prepared gifts to bring?
Should I mention the things I ponder in heart,
The prophecies spoken that set you apart?
When shall I tell you that you'll just stay awhile,
Because the world outside needs to reconcile...

How I wish you could stay here safe in my arms!
Not face rejection, temptation and harm,
How I wish you could stay here surrounded by love,
But I know that your calling has come from above.
How I wish you could grow to be head of a home,
But I know there's a Kingdom you have to make known,
How I wish I could keep your small hand in mine,
Far from crude nails and cruel bindings of twine,
I know that the world needs to feel your touch,
That these hands that I'm holding will accomplish so much!
How I wish you could stay with your beautiful smile,
But I know you were lent to me just for a while,
I'm so proud of you and who you'll become,
Not just my own, but the Father's own Son.

12. What do **we** *treasure up* and *ponder in our hearts* about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord?

13. The Messiah: The Bible Project

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dEh25pduQ8