

And It Came to Pass . . . ***The Point*** ***of the Christmas Story – God’s Plan***

Luke 2:15 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.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Purpose for This Series:

1. To understand better the story that we read so often.
2. To see the masterplan of God and the beauty of His perfect plan.
3. To keep perspective on this wonderful season.

The Presentation of the Christmas Story – God’s Purpose

1. The Pause

Luke 2:15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, . . .

A Reminder: The angels were an army

They pledged allegiance to their commander

They made an offer of peace

They had a condition – “on whom his favor rests”

Consider God’s pattern: He doesn’t force you!

2. The Plan

Luke 2:15 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.”

The plan – “Let’s go to Bethlehem”

The belief—“this thing that has happened”

The understanding – “the Lord has told us about”

3. The Proof –

Luke 2:16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

It is so nice to be able to prove our faith!

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

4. The Presentation

Luke 2:17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

It was important for the shepherds to see this child.

They told others that this baby was the Christ.

For some reason, it seems as though people actually listened.

5. The Pondering

Luke 2: 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

It had been nine months since the visit by the angel. She had to wonder if it was all true or if she had even been dreaming.

What did Mary really know at this time?

6. The Praise

Luke 2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The shepherds worshipped.

“About what they had heard and seen!”

God was trustworthy.

Our Lessons:

1. God will draw you and even show you the way but He will not force you to go His way.
2. The people who really make a difference in the world aren’t necessarily the most gifted or the smartest. Instead, it is the people who have good intentions and then follow-through to complete them.
3. Christianity isn’t a secret! Those who truly have the world’s greatest news WANT to share it!

Acts 4:18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

4. The common denominator of the Christmas story is worship!

The angels, the shepherds, the wise men, Simeon and Anna!