

## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

**Text: Luke 2:8-11**

**Key Word:** Revelation

**Key Thought:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ has been given to us to proclaim to others

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.  
9. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  
10. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.  
11. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

*Luke 2:8-11*

Before every playoff game in hockey, there is always an announcement of both teams from the commentator to inform the fans of the evening lineup of players. Cheers of exuberance spread throughout the arena. Then the hero skates unto the ice and the place explodes with applause and cheers in great expectation of their champion. Almost 2,000 years ago the HERO of Mankind was spectacularly introduced in a lonely field around Bethlehem to a few lowly shepherds of Judea.

Have you ever wondered why this Revelation of the Son of God was limited to an insignificant field of shepherds instead of something the whole world could witness at once? It seems like God hasn't changed His plan throughout the centuries. **There are specific methods He has adopted for the Proclamation of His Revelation.** He has . . .

- I. Revealed Man to himself**
- II. Revealed Himself to Man**
- III. Revealed Himself through Man**

## I. Revealed Man to himself

Most of us have always had trouble seeing who we really are. There seems to be two extremes that people find themselves in. We either overestimate who are or underestimate who we are. Those in the latter half find it difficult to see any value in themselves. I find it interesting how God chose a few meagre shepherds to teach us an important lesson.

“The poorest, the simplest, the least gifted and accomplished, find welcome from Him, and may take rank among the very first in His kingdom. Ignorant men, condemned to a life of hard toil and scanty fare, tied and bound by the claims of their craft, with few opportunities for joining in the public worship of the Temple, or to listen to the instruction of the Rabbis.

Joseph Excell M.A.

God chose the quiet pasture land to proclaim the message that would change all of mankind. The city with its confusion would be too disruptive to air a message of peace. Who **would** hear? Who **could** hear? The Temple in Jerusalem in all its splendour and ceremony was bypassed. The High Priests could not be bothered with an interruption of their busy schedule.

They had to make an impression with all the visitors. They needed their garments pressed! The lights had to be trimmed! Someone had to set up the Table of Shewbread. The incense was running low, and it was time to order more! **They probably were frustrated wondering why was it that the most important things of life were always being neglected.**

The world view would have declared that God had wasted His time, brightening the sky with a host of angels, and then limiting His message to a few poor shepherds. **Was God’s eye on the lowliest while neglecting to see the loftiest?** No! He rather saw the sober and honest toil of these shepherds performing their daily duty with faithfulness. These were prepared to receive a message of peace because they were at peace with themselves.

“In peace there’s nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility.”

William Shakespear

“Depart in peace, ye messengers of peace.”

A Jewish prayer for the Eve of the Sabbath

## I. Revealed Man to himself (Contd.)

The shepherds were chosen because of their obscurity and lowliness. They had come to accept themselves. No shepherd was allowed to enter the temple past the Court of the Gentiles. Shepherds stood as they were laying aside any facade of holiness. God has sought out many a man while simply performing his daily duty perhaps not even aware of the intervention of God.

- **Moses** received his credentials to lead his people while caring for Jethro's sheep
- **Gideon** was threshing wheat by the winepress when he received his commission
- **Saul** was seeking out his father's lost donkeys when he was chosen to be king
- Samuel waited to anoint **David** while they summoned him from "those few sheep in the wilderness"
- **Elisha** was ploughing when Elijah passed by and cast the mantle of prophecy upon him
- **Amos** as a herdsman of Tekoa was called to prophesy judgment against Philistia and Tyre
- **Zacharias** was executing his priestly duty while Gabriel announced the message of "joy and gladness."
- The **shepherds** while "abiding . . . and keeping watch" were chosen to receive "good tidings."
- **Peter, James and John** left their nets to become "fishers of men."
- **Levi** was collecting taxes when Jesus called out for him to follow

God is still able to take a man as he is and develop in him the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Are we willing to see ourselves as we are? The shepherds were faithful in their pasture both before and after receiving the Revelation of God. We can't share Jesus to others effectively until we accept who we are. **God specializes in Revealing man to himself.**

## II. Revealed Himself to Man

The next step in the proclamation of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is that God Reveals Himself to Man. **Once we understand and accept WHO WE ARE we are ready to receive WHO GOD IS.** This step brings us immediately into an important hurdle. What I'm talking about can often create a turmoil in our soul. That turmoil is fear.

The only way to properly drive out fear is to have a Revelation of Jesus Christ within us. The angels declared a message that has had to be repeated over and over again - **FEAR NOT!** It's interesting that these same shepherds were prepared to face a lion and bear. They had to learn to handle other strange appearances in the sky without becoming alarmed. But this was a new experience. It was a moment of Revelation of the unknown.

## II. Revealed Himself to Man (Contd.)

A short time ago a timekeeper at work noticed her coat sleeve moving as it was hung on a corner hook. Alarmed by the unknown, she made a motion to the nurse and secretary who were visiting her. At that moment a furry rodent jumped out with whiskers and a protruding nose. Screams went forth as the three ladies mounted the surrounding chairs. The young mouse quickly scurried to a place of refuge unable to understand the reason behind such a commotion.

“Fear always spring from ignorance [the unknown]”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**People in fear find it difficult to receive messages.** The angels came and brought a message of good tidings and great joy. **The shepherds had to exchange their fear for this wonderful message.**

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”*

*Luke 2:11 KJV*

What a message to offer people who are bound their fear. These poor shepherds were also oppressed by Roman dominion. Yet they were more imprisoned by their very thoughts and ways.

Joy needed to be released in them. This joy came in the Person of Jesus Christ. The time of trouble and darkness ended when the message of good tidings and great joy was proclaimed. **Throughout the Bible God has often brought people through times of trouble and darkness before gifting them with a wonderful blessing.**

- Jacob’s loss of his son Joseph, prepared the way for an abundance provision during a time of great famine
- The Red Sea opened at a time of hopelessness to proclaim the majesty of God
- The conquest into the promised land was immediately met with the walls of Jericho which were forced to bow in humility
- Saul being unhorsed and blinded released an inner light that shone into the nations
- The exile of the beloved John, offered an opportune time for God to unfold His apocalyptic Revelation
- Troublesome times cause us to lift up our heads because our redemption is near

### III. Revealed Himself through Man

The purpose of all that I've just said can be found in one short clause of a verse.

*" . . . which shall be to all people . . . "*

*Luke 2:10 KJV*

**The angels were limited as messengers because God chose mankind to become the ones who would proclaim to Good News. They were refused permission to be the world's evangelists in order that we would have the privilege.**

*"And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"*

*Romans 10:15*

We can clearly see a world in need of the gospel. Every Christian has been given the privilege of being the messengers of God's love and grace. The shepherd's mission field was limited to the area surrounding the hills of Bethlehem.

*"When they had seen him [after he had revealed himself to them], they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,"*

*Luke 2:17*

*"If God has chosen you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king."*

*John Drooms*

We need to express the heart of God to ALL people. This includes every race, colour, tribe, and age. It will include the **lovely** and the **unlovable**. This vocation will have its **trouble** and **testing**. Yet it comes with a note of victory.

*" . . . that will be for all people . . . "*

*Luke 2:10b*

God's work will be accomplished whether by many or a few. The shepherds were not required to complete a 3-year biblical studies program at the Judean Hills Bible College. They were simply given the Revelation of Jesus Christ. **They were never asked to PROCLAIM the message yet they could not CONTAIN the message.** The message was kept simple.

### III. Revealed Himself through Man (Contd.)

*“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child . . .*

*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.”*

*Luke 2:17,20*

They accomplished this astonishing task with haste (Luke 2:16). Not a moment could be wasted. They went about their task with great joy.

God hasn't changed His pattern over the years. He . . .

**I. Revealed Man to himself**

**II. Revealed Himself to Man**

**III. Revealed Himself through Man**

We need to ask ourselves where we stand in God's process. **Perhaps you are in the process of finding out who you really are.** This is a revelation in itself. Today could be the day that you allow God to do this work of His grace in you.

**Perhaps you need to overcome the fear that has continually hindered you from receiving the Revelation of whom Jesus really is.** Allow joy to overcome the enemy of fear.

**Lastly express it to others. Offer yourself the continual opportunity to bless others.** The message of Christianity is not better felt than told. It needs an avenue of expression. Let God Reveal Himself through you.

C:\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.22\Special Days\Luke 2\_8.11.wpd

Date: Jan 15/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Noel, Noel

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

**Text: Luke 2:8-11**

**Key Word:** Revelation

**Key Thought:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ has been given to us to proclaim to others

There were specific methods the Son of God adopted for the Proclamation of His Revelation. He has . . .

## **I. Revealed Man to himself**

- **Moses** received his credentials to lead his people while caring for Jethro's sheep
- **Gideon** was threshing wheat by the winepress when he received his commission
- **Saul** was seeking out his father's lost donkeys when he was chosen to be king
- Samuel waited to anoint **David** while they summoned him from "those few sheep in the wilderness"
- **Elisha** was ploughing when Elijah passed by and cast the mantle of prophecy upon him
- **Amos** as a herdsman of Tekoa was called to prophesy judgment against Philistia and Tyre
- **Zacharias** was executing his priestly duty while Gabriel announced the message of "joy and gladness."
- The **shepherds** while "abiding . . . and keeping watch" were chosen to receive "good tidings."
- **Peter, James and John** left their nets to become "fishers of men."
- **Levi** was collecting taxes when Jesus called out for him to follow

## **II. Revealed Himself to Man** - *Luke 2:11 KJV*

- Jacob's loss of his son Joseph, prepared the way for an abundance provision during a time of great famine
- The Red Sea opened at a time of hopelessness to proclaim the majesty of God
- The conquest into the promised land was immediately met with the walls of Jericho which were forced to bow in humility
- Saul being unhorsed and blinded released an inner light that shone into the nations
- The exile of the beloved John, offered an opportune time for God to unfold His apocalyptic Revelation
- Troublesome times cause us to lift up our heads because our redemption is near

## **III. Revealed Himself through Man** - *Luke 2:10 KJV; Romans 10:15; Luke 2:17; Luke 2:10b Luke 2:17,20*