

A Heavenly Serenade

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 2:8-13

→ “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” (v. 13).



Big Idea

The song of this angelic choir keeps us from missing the profound implications the Messiah's arrival: heaven is merging with earth, peace is coming by His blood, and all of this is by God's sovereign grace!

(1) When Does the Angelic Choir Appear?

If the shepherds have any doubt that there is something of cosmic significance occurring with the birth of this little child in an animal's feeding trough, in the little Judean town of Bethlehem, God now calls heaven to come in full force and testify to it! And the point, it seems to me, is this: God is jealous for His people not to miss what He's doing in the incarnation!

A certain principle is put in place at the incarnation that we dare not miss, though we are so prone to: namely, heaven breaks into earth in the humblest of forms, God is at work in the smallest of things. This little baby in a manger in Bethlehem has initiated a cosmic revolution. And He calls us into it. But in so doing He recalibrates our values. It's not the big, the flashy, the powerful, the wealthy, the externally righteous that God cares about. It's humble, broken, lowly faith in Him and love for others.

But we continually need to hear the angelic choir on this don't we?! Aren't our recalibrated kingdom values always migrating back to the default mode of our flesh and this world? I'm always trying to do something “big” for God, and I forget that oftentimes the biggest things to Him look like the smallest things to everyone else.

(2) What Does the Angelic Choir Sing?

“*On earth peace.*” Our leaking peace, our panic, it's not because we don't have enough comfort, money, or things of this world. It's because we're not right with God, to whom we and this world belong. But if you have peace with God in heaven, you have peace in all and every circumstance on earth.

In the place of our panic, it's to the blood of His cross that we run. Jesus' blood doesn't just answer to our panic at the beginning of our Christian lives, it is the sufficient answer all the way through. For if God is now fully and forever for me, who or what could ever be against me?!

“*Among those with whom He is pleased.*” We do not make our way into God's good pleasure and favor of our own wisdom, strength, initiative, or even faith. It is due solely to the sovereign grace of God.



Critical Action

If the Father is drawing, come to Jesus, and therein find your peace with God, and your heaven on earth. Now and forever!



Reflection Questions

- Are you missing heaven in the humble things? How have big things proven to be small, small things big? How have you seen this work out in your life this past week?
- How do you try to plug the leaks in your peace? How does this only lead to greater panic? How does the blood of Christ speak a better word?
- God's sovereign election can be tough for us to accept. If you don't accept it, how would you interpret Eph 1:3-10? If you do accept it, how are you encouraged by Eph 1:3-10?