

# It's a Wonderful Life

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 2:8-20

→ “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (v. 20).



## Big Idea

We are always responding to God's revelation for good or for bad. When we respond for good we find ourselves in an ascending dynamic that ushers us into the very presence of God and folds us into the angelic choir whose chief duty and delight is to glorify and praise Him forever.

### (1) Go and See (vv. 15-16)

When once a person has received revelation from God, he suddenly finds that he is in a place of great danger. Such revelation is never a neutral thing. It always calls for an appropriate response. It always asks us: “Now that you've seen, now that you've heard, what are you going to do with it?” In other words: revelation from God comes with responsibility for us.

The first place of our response is not what you might think. It does not begin with law-keeping, with good deeds, with striving in our own strength. In fact, it doesn't have all that much to do with us at all. The first place of these shepherds' obedience is not so much to go and do, but to Go and See: “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see...” But go and see what? Him! The child. The incarnate Son of God.

We start here and we stay here every day of our lives. Go and see, go and see...Jesus! The path to the Son of God is the happy highway of the child of God. We travel it every moment with haste. We wear down every stone that lines this narrow way until its fine dust beneath our feet. We never tire of going and seeing Him!

### (2) Wonder and Treasure (vv. 17-19)

If we hear of this Son, and set ourselves to Go and See Him, hastening down that happy highway—in the morning seeking Him in the Scriptures, throughout my day seeking Him in prayer, staying near to Him in the fellowship of the Spirit, walking according to His word—suddenly we find that the whole world around us opens up with wonder—particularly, with the wonder of the incarnation. We find that God is always and everywhere drawing near to His creatures and giving Himself away in grace.

### (3) Glorify and Praise (v. 20)

While these words “glorify” and “praise” lead us back to the beginning of our narrative (vv. 13-14) they truly direct us to the end of redemptive history, the ultimate aim of God in sending His Son into the world: namely, that we would join the angels in responding to the revelation of the glory of His grace as revealed in His Son (Rev 5)!



## Critical Action

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb 4:7). Respond to whatever revelation of the Son the Father gives you. Obey Him in little and more vision of Him is added!



## Reflection Questions

- Why does hearing and doing begin with going and seeing? Why does all work that pleases God begin with faith in the Son of God? What does this look like in your life?
- How has the world opened up to you with the wonder of God's grace? Do you have a treasury for all that He's revealed of Himself to you? Share something from it with us.
- Read Rev 5. How is the dynamic of revelation and response at work here? What does this make you think heaven will be like? How then do you think God's will on earth can be done in your life as it is in heaven?