

Shepherded by a Sheep

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 2:8-12

→ “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (vv. 10-11).



Big Idea

In order for the Good Shepherd to save the sheep from their wandering, He Himself must become a sheep and be sacrificed in their place.

(1) The Shepherd-Guests (vv. 8-9)

God doesn't invite the king, or the prince, or the religious leader, or the wealthy, or the educated. He invites the shepherds—a group who, if not despised at this point in Jewish opinion (as they would be in later rabbinic tradition), certainly was of the lower class.

The shepherds here, and those like them (low, broken, empty, poor), don't have as much to hold onto. They often see more clearly their need. Often it is the poor in flesh who consequently have learned to be poor in spirit.

(2) The Shepherd-King (vv. 10-11)

When we consider the OT background of this “good news” in Isaiah, we find that the great end-time period of redemption is described as God reclaiming His flock and tending to them once again! The Christ, then, the subject of this good news, has come from God, even as God, to be our Shepherd-King.

For us, this means: (1) He tends to your needs; (2) He gathers you in His arms; (3) He carries you close to His chest; (4) He gently leads you through hard times; (5) He will make sure you dwell secure; (6) He will be your peace; (7) He will pursue you until every last wandering affection of your heart is His alone; (8) He will rejoice over you with loud singing!

(3) The Shepherd-Sheep (v. 12)

Then it's as if this angelic announcement is just shot down out of the air and it comes falling from the heavenlies, landing suddenly in a mess of animal's slop. For this Christ is not even lord over the animals, He's lying with them!

This child *would* be the Good Shepherd. He would live His life in pursuit of His wandering and lost sheep. But in the end, to truly bring us back into the fold of His Father, to save us from our wandering, the Good Shepherd would Himself have to be made a Sacrificial Sheep.



Critical Action

Receive the invitation without fear and publicize the invitation without partiality!



Reflection Questions

- Read Luk 14:15-24. What kept the first group from accepting the invitation? Which group would you say you are in right now? Explain.
- Read Psa 23. How would knowing the Lord as your shepherd in this way have changed the way you lived last week? How might it change things in the week to come?
- Consider the people God picks for His team, the names on His guest list. Now consider those you move towards in your life and those you tend to avoid. How should the gospel affect you here?