

Share the wonder of Christmas

THE WONDER OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

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SESSION 2 | SUN 15 DEC 24'

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE HEARD THIS YEAR?

- A pay rise?
- A new home?
- The arrival of a new child?
- You passed an exam?
- You won a legal battle?

WONDER – THE MEANING OF THE WORD

As a *Noun*:

- 1. A feeling of amazement and admiration**
- 2. A miraculous or extraordinary event**
- 3. A sense of curiosity or questioning**

WONDER – THE MEANING OF THE WORD

As a Verb:

- 1. To feel amazement or admiration**
- 2. To think about something with curiosity or doubt**

1. “THE WONDER OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT”

ISAIAH 52:7 (NKJV)

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' "

1. “THE WONDER OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT”

KEY THEMES

- **Announcements have the power to change lives forever.**
- **The greatest news is often unexpected and transformative.**
- **God chooses unique ways to communicate His most important messages**

2. HEAVEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

LUKE 2:8-11 (NKJV)

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid."

2. HEAVEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Why Shepherds?

- **Considered lowly in social hierarchy**
- **Marginalized and often overlooked by society**
- **Symbolizes God's inclusive love - good news for ALL people**
- **Demonstrates that no one is too insignificant to receive God's message**

2. HEAVEN'S ANNOUCEMENT

The Angelic Proclamation

- **"Do not be afraid" - God's first words are of comfort**
- **"Good tidings of great joy" - The message transcends**

2. HEAVEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Momentary Circumstances

- **"Which will be to all people" - Universal salvation and hope**
- **Theological Significance**
- **God breaks through human barriers**
- **Divine intervention in human history**
- **The incarnation as the ultimate expression of God's love**

3. THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE

LUKE 2:8-15-17 (NKJV)

"So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child."

3. THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE

IMMEDIATE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR RESPONSE:

- **Urgency** - "Let us now go"
- **Curiosity** - Desire to verify the message
- **Boldness** - Sharing without hesitation
- **Transformation** - From fear to joy, from silence to proclamation

3. THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE

LESSONS FOR SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

- **A personal encounter leads to a powerful testimony!**
- **Your authenticity matters more than your eloquence!**
- **Everyone can share what they've personally experienced!**
- **We all have something to share with others!**
- **I encourage you to tell your story**

4. CONNECTING TO MODERN EXPERIENCE

- **Acknowledging** - We are also called to be messengers
- **Overcoming** – the fear of sharing faith
- **Understanding** - not about our eloquence, but God's grace

CLOSING CHALLENGE

- **Reflect on your personal "good news"**
- **Who needs to hear your testimony?**
- **Be willing to step out of your comfort zone**

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NKJV)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY - A SIMPLE MODEL

- 1. Share how things were before you meet Christ**
- 2. Share how you met Christ and how He changed your life**
- 3. Share how life is now and what a difference he makes**

**HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN YOU
SHARE YOUR STORY WITH THIS
CHRISTMAS?**
