

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told” (v. 20)

**When 2nd Best is the Best**  
The shepherds were changed.



The second greatest gift is your reception of the greatest gift.

**Could This Be True for You Today:**

**The greatest gift you can receive this Christmas is the gift of a changed life.**

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” (2 Peter 01:03-04, NIV)*

## **Journey to Meet the Christ**

Luke 02:08-20

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 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 02:08-20, NIV)

### **A Head Scratcher**

Jesus was born a few miles away from sheep that were used for sacrifices during Passover. Hmm!

God always has a bigger picture in mind.



## Not on the “Invite List”

A Shepherd’s Reputation:

- ◇ Dads did not want their sons to be shepherds.
- ◇ They were low-lives.
- ◇ They were trouble.

“No shepherd was allowed to give evidence in court” (Shaw)



They were not on anyone’s “invite list”

But, God invites them to His Birthday Party for Jesus!

## A Break in the Action

Each time an angel shows up in Scripture, there is a call to not be afraid.

Angels have a message from God.

This was not a “Silent Night” experience:

A host of angels= An Angel Army!

An angel’s job: Praise God!

Who receives God’s favor?

In a word, Everyone!

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they hurried off...” (v. 15-16a)

## We Are Outta Here

These guys don’t sit around debating.

They understand it is a word not from angels, but from God.

When God speaks, we need to get moving.

They have the opportunity to see the Savior of the World, can you blame them for wanting to go?



*Question:*

*What is holding you back from connecting with the Savior?*

## Words

“...they spread the word...” (v. 17)

When Christ does something in our lives, we need to tell somebody.

Who do you need to tell?

