

Theme: The angels' song announced that Christ had come to bring glory to God and peace to the people of earth.

I. Intro – Advent of Peace - and Wal-Mart Riots

- A. Black Friday sales at Wal-Mart
- B. In NC, man video recorded mob riot
- C. People shoving, pushing others down, ripping merchandise out of others hands
- D. In one video police seemed to just stand there
- E. But it was for flat panel TV's so if must be ok!!!
- F. I thought Christ came to bring peace? How did we get here?
- G. How can we experience the peace of God during Advent - and beyond?

II. The Angels' Song - A Dual Focus

- A. The major pairs of contrast in the song
Glory to God in the highest,
and
on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14
 - 1. The pair of glory and peace
 - 2. The pair of God and men (on whom God's favor rests)
 - 3. The pair of heaven (the highest) and earth
 - a. This one forms a chiasm in middle - heaven, earth
 - b. Song is showing results of Christ's birth on heaven & earth

- B. Two locations, two subjects, two results

- 1. Location - heaven and earth
- 2. Subjects - God and humanity
- 3. Results - glory and peace

III. The Angels' Song - Glory To God in Heaven

- A. The primary focus in the song is glory to God in heaven
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14
 - 1. Notice that this subject is taken up first
 - 2. Remember the Servant is foremost the Servant of Yahweh
 - 3. Even when we move to peace, it is God's favor that is primary
- B. As always - God is primary
 - 1. The first outcome of Christ's coming - glory to God!
 - 2. John Calvin quote
The angels begin with thanksgiving, or with the praises of God; for Scripture, too, everywhere reminds us, that we were redeemed from death for this purpose, that we might testify with the tongue, as well as by the actions of the life, our gratitude to God. Let us remember, then, the final cause, why God reconciled us to himself through his Only Begotten Son. It was that he might glorify his name, by revealing the riches of his grace, and of his boundless mercy. (Calvin, Commentary)
 - 3. This is proper - for He created, sustains everything!

IV. The Angels' Song - Peace To Humans On Earth

- A. The amazing result - peace to us!
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14
1. The basic message is clear - Christ brings peace
 2. This is good news for us!
- B. Peace between whom? Humans, or mankind and God?
1. Primary reference is peace between us and God
 - a. God is the focus of the song - peace is with Him
 - b. Shalom - all is right - flows from right relationship with God
 - c. Peace with God is primary - peace between humans flows from this
 2. Peace is being offered by God to exiles in darkness
How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Luke 1:76-79
 3. This should lead to peace between humans as well

- but sadly often has not

- C. The basis - God's favor rests on us
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14
1. Some translations - "with whom He is pleased"
 2. But the idea is really God's good pleasure
At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. Luke 10:21
 3. Dead Sea scrolls have shown the idea is "on Whom His favor rests"
 4. Again - the emphasis is on God - not our works

V. Applying the Word

- A. The angels' song of hope resonate through our carols
1. Angels We Have Heard On High
 2. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
- B. Find peace in Christ today
1. He has come to bring peace with God
 2. Our subjective lack of peace is rooted in alienation from God
 3. But Christ has bridged the gap and offers peace
 4. Receive that peace today!!!

C. We should join the angels in offering glory to God!

1. He is worthy of glory and honor!
2. He made us, sustains us, redeems us in Christ
3. It is only right that we join the angels in praising God
Among men, the testimony of “two or three witnesses” (Matthew 18:16) is sufficient to remove all doubt. But here is a heavenly host, with one consent and one voice bearing testimony to the Son of God. What then would be our obstinacy, if we refused to join with the choir of angels, in singing the praises of our salvation, which is in Christ?
(Calvin, Commentary)

D. Response - Angels We Have Heard On High

The Angels' Song of Peace

Luke 2:13-14

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Angels We Have Heard On High

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:13–14