

Date: 12/22/13
Text: Luke 2:9-12
Title: Our Song of Joy
Theme: In response to the amazing hope, peace and love of Advent the terror gripped heart is overwhelmed by certain and boundless joy.
Benediction: Ps 4:6-7

Luke 2:9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Intro

2:9-10 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy

Illustration

My family experienced great joy after we received Tirzah home from the hospital 1 year ago.

Context:

A. Awakened to Overwhelming Terror

1. In the dark minding their own business or sleeping
2. Into this uncomfortable, and potentially dangerous situation an angel suddenly appears
3. With him appears the overwhelming glory of the presence of God Himself
4. The shepherds respond out of shock
5. and are very, very afraid - naturally (Greek "were afraid of a terrifying horror")

B. Comforted by overwhelming joy

1. responds saying, "Hey! Wait guys! Don't BE SCARED!"
2. CUZ Look!
 - a) "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."
(Luke 2:10 ESV)
3. I've got GOOD news!
4. This is such great news you're gonna have a hard time not hitching up your toga and doing a jig!

2:11 "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. The Hope of Messiah fulfilled

C. Today

1. You're not holding onto hope any more
 - a) From Genesis 3:15 - through some 4,000 years, 400 years of captivity, hundreds of judges, prophets and kings, and 400 years of silence - Israel had been waiting, looking for, and hoping to see the promised Christ cf. Luke 2:29
2. Right now you can go and look, hear, and touch
 - a) No longer a theoretical or philosophical, or theological idea HE'S HERE and the shepherds drop what they're doing to go and see him.

D. Christ

1. In the City of David
2. Anointed/Messiah cf. Ps 2:1-2
 - a) Deliverer, peace maker cf. Is 61:1
 - (1) From exile to triumph cf. Is 57:18-19
 - (2) From darkness to Light cf. John 1:4-5

E. He is Savior and Lord

1. Not primarily temporal or national
 - a) Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1)
 - (1) "Savior"
 - (2) "the birth date of our God has signaled the beginning of good news for the world."
2. From the Wrath of God
 - a) Lamb of God
 - b) Takes away the sin of the world cf. John 1:29
 - c) The Wrath of God satisfied cf. Ps 75:8, Matt 26:39, Heb 2:7, 1 John 4:10
 - d) From enmity to beloved cf. John 1:12
 - e) WARNING The Wrath of the Lamb cf. Rev 6:16

2:12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

F. Jesus' Humiliation births Our Great Joy

1. The sign
 - a) A miraculous manifestation of God's power and love
 - b) Tangible evidence that God has kept His word
2. The humiliation of Christ's Advent and birth
 - a) From immortal invisible God to naked and nursing infant
 - (1) How Many Kings
 - b) "... that will be for all the people."
 - (1) Joy to the World
 - (a) First to lowly dirty shepherds - then to all men
 - c) Hope became flesh proving it was Faithful and True
 - (1) Hallelujah Chorus