

Connecting Christmas Day to Your Everyday

Luke 2:8-21

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Dec 22, 2019

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All Respond: ***Thanks be to God!***

- I. **Even though you celebrate Christmas just once each year, you can remember the truth of Christmas every day.**

Luke 2:19 - ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

The Greek verb translated "treasure" means to actively keep something in mind, lest it's forgotten.

The Shepherds heard from an angel, and they'll likely never forget it. Mary heard from shepherds, and they're pretty easy to forget. That's why she "treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." She made an effort to remember, lest she forget.

Matt. 13:3,8 - ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And

since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty...

Matt. 13:18-23 - ¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

II. Even though you sense peace at Christmastime, the message of Christmas can bring lasting peace every day.

Luke 2:14 - ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace among those with whom he is pleased!**”

Things are a bit quieter, and there tends to be a unique sense of peace on Christmas Day. Long after Christmas is done and over with, Christians *still* have peace with God every day because of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection.

John 16:33 - ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Rom. 5:1 - ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Even though this life is often filled with fears, embracing the true message of Christmas lets you face life with the confidence that can only be found in the Gospel!

Luke 2:10 - ¹⁰ 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.

If you have a *right* relationship with God, and know that every aspect of your life was in *His* control, you would trust Him and have no reason to be afraid.

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- (1) Pastor Peter said, "Most who hear the Word forget it. However, some hear and believe the Word, and treasure it in their hearts." Looking back on your life thus far, which best describes you?
- (2) Like Mary in Luke 2:19, what can you do to treasure up the good news of Christmas long after the season is done?
- (3) Do you feel like you have peace with God? Why or why not?
- (4) What are you tempted to be fearful of? How could a right relationship with God impact that which you fear?