

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**How to Hear Good News**  
**Luke 2:1-20**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 18, 2020*

Good News can be ignored or just sound like noise if you're not ready to hear it in the right way.

**I. You'll Need to Fear God Instead of Trying to Be God**

**Luke 2:9** "And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear."

They are afraid because it's a certain kind of light – the light of the glory of God!

Whenever God gets close and reveals His glory, we get uncomfortable because the glory of God exposes us and reminds us that we're not God.

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

**Romans 1:21-23** "For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

Don't curse the light! Submit to the God of that light and the lesson God wants to teach you. You will not win a fight with God.

Worry is not just failing to trust God; it's fighting against God for His job.

When you're resentful and unforgiving, you're not just failing God with your bitterness; you're fighting God for His job as judge.

**II. You'll Need to Know Who to Listen To**

Even though our passage has an army of angels and the glory of God exploding to light up the night, the biggest takeaway is that God comes to most of us in very ordinary ways.

Notice that while the shepherds got an angel, everyone else just got shepherds.

**Luke 2:17-18** “And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.”

The power is in the message of the Gospel, not the messenger.

God delights in using the ordinary to spread His extraordinary message of hope, even at some of the most critical junctures in history.

Two ways that He’s most likely to speak to you:

#1: The testimony of an ordinary person in your network of relationships

#2: Exposure to His written Word, the Bible

Do not give in to the temptation to defend yourself from the message just because you see flaws in the messenger.

If you’re not reading the Bible for yourself and you’re saying “I don’t know why God doesn’t speak to me,” you’ve got nobody to blame but yourself because the main way God speaks to us today is through the Bible.

### III. You’ll Need to Know How to Listen Well

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

The Greek word for “ponder” is a cognitive word that means to put something into context or try to connect it with life and what you already know.

That Greek word for “treasure” has to do with the emotions or the heart. It literally means to keep something alive or to keep a fire alive by feeding it. It means to relish or savor the truth.

Are you reading God’s Word?

How are you reading God’s Word? Are you taking time to ponder it and treasure it to the point that it comes alive in your own heart?