

THE GOOD NEWS

TEXT: (Luke 2:1-20, NIV)

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 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."

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."

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

I. PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

A. The Angels Proclaimed the Good News

1 "Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:13-14, NIV)

B. The Shepherds Went Forth with the Good News

1. "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36, NIV).
2. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires" (Ephesians 4:22, NIV).
3. "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27, NIV).

C. The Magi Were Looking for Good News

1. "Magi from the east came to Jerusalem" (Matthew 2:1, NIV).
2. "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV)

II. GO

A. To All the World

1. "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).
2. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8, KJV).
3. "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9, NIV).

B. To Every Kind of Person

1. "Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right'" (Acts 10:34-35, NIV).
2. "Jesus answered him, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise'" (Luke 23:43, NIV).
3. "Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost'" (Luke 19:9-10, NIV).
4. "Now he had to go through Samaria" (John 4:4, NIV).

C. To Every People Group

1. "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47, NIV).
2. "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say'" (Acts 2:14, NIV).
3. "The voice spoke to him a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean'" (Acts 10:15, NIV).

III. THE NEED OF THE HOUR

A. The Fields Are Ripe

1. "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35, NIV).
2. "He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'" (Luke 10:2).

B. Now Is the Time

1. Now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).
2. "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4, NIV).

C. Diligent in the Lord's Work

1. "A curse on him who is lax in doing the LORD'S work!" (Jeremiah 48:10, NIV).
2. "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7, KJV).
2. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3, NIV).
3. "So there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8, NIV).
- 4.. "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, NIV).
5. "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:39, NIV).