

Lesson 02: The Visit of the Shepherds

Objective: To know that the Good News of Jesus is given not only for us to *accept* but also to *share*.

Background: God acts and makes known His act. When He took the initiative to provide salvation for mankind by the birth of Jesus, He also made known the news. The news the angel brought to

the shepherds two thousand years ago is *still* good news *today* because men are lost, needing a savior

Instruction: Read carefully Luke 2:8-20, 21-38; Matthew 2:1-12 before answering the questions.

Let's Think:

1. Describe the scene before and after the angel appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. Do you observe any change in the atmosphere?
2. How did the angel describe the news he brought? Were the shepherds a "privileged few"? Why does the news need to be shared by those who receive it? Explain.
3. What was the shepherds' reaction to the news? List the verbs found in Lk. 2:16, 17 which are related to the shepherds, the subject. Do you observe any *logical sequence*? Explain.
4. To whom, in the end, did the shepherds give glory and praise: *God or His messenger*? (Lk. 2:20) By the way, is there a *tendency* for believers today to glorify messengers more than God who sent them? If so, how and why?
5. Describe in your own words how each of the following persons reacted to the news of Jesus' birth and give the reason why. (Palestine at the time was under the king, Herod, known as Herod the Great, appointed by the Roman government.)
 - a. the magi (or the wise men) (Mt. 2: 1-12)
 - b. the king, Herod (Mt. 2: 1-8; 13-18)
 - c. the chief priests & scribes (the Jewish religious leaders)
6. How do people react to the news of Jesus today? How about you? Does the news of salvation *make sense to those who have no sense of need*? Discuss.
7. Do you consider it an *act of love* or an *act of duty* to share the Good News? Why? Do you feel uneasy and hesitate to share the Good News? If so, why? Share your difficulties.

Let's Remember: And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord..." (Luke 2: 10,11).