

# A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

## Lesson Five: A Season to Proclaim – Luke 2:8 - 20

### INTRODUCTION

- In the middle of the Indian Ocean is a small island called Christmas Island. The island, a territory of Australia was so named because of its discovery on Christmas Day 1643
- Just over 9000 miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is another island called Christmas Island. This Christmas Island is the farthest east timezone (next to the International Date Line).
- The Christmas islands remind us that Christmas should be a sort of island – a time when we can pause, pull away from the busyness and cares of a long year, and spend a few moments in peaceful contemplation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind: the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Lord Jesus Christ was presented in a humble manger in a stable of Bethlehem, and God chose common working men – a group of shepherds – to proclaim the news of His Son's birth to the world.

#### I. Hear the Heavenly Announcement: *Verses 8 - 14*

A. From a special messenger: *Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:13 – 14, Revelation 5:11 – 12; Hebrews 1:6*

B. With a special message: *Luke 2:10 – 12*

1. *This was a message of assurance.*

2. *This was a message of acceptance: John 3:16; Isaiah 45:22.*

3. *This was a message of anticipation: Luke 2:13 – 14; John 14:1 – 3; Isaiah 9:6 – 7.*

#### II. See the Heavenly Arrival: *Verses 15 – 16, 20*

A. The place of His arrival: *Micah 5:2.*

B. The Person who arrived: *Romans 1:1 – 4; Matthew 1:22 – 23; Matthew 1:20 – 21.*

#### III. Share the Heavenly Amazement: *Verse 17 - 18*

A. A call to worried men: *2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10.*

B. A call to working men.

C. A call to willing men: *Psalms 111:2.*

D. A call to witnessing men: *Luke 2:17 – 18; Psalm 66:16.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

- **The reason we know about secluded places like the Christmas Islands because explorers encountered them and made known these discoveries to the world.**
- **And God's plan for telling the world about the One who came to be "with us" and bring peace on earth involves people like the shepherds, who encountered Jesus personally and were willing to make known their discovery to all who would listen.**
- **There are yet a few more days left of the Christmas season.**
- **Use the time to pause for reflection on the Son of God who came to earth on that first Christmas.**
- **Then challenge yourself to be the one who is unashamed to proclaim to others why He is only reason for the season.**

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# **“The Nativity Characters – Jesus”**

**Text: Matthew 1:21-25; Luke 31-35**

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

**Introduction:** We have been studying the characters of The Nativity Story during these December Sundays. This morning we come to the main character of the story. Note in our texts some names that reveal the character of Jesus. In this sermon attention is given to three in particular:

## **I. See God's Incarnation in Jesus' Name.**

(Luke 1:32, 35; Philippians 2:5-8; John 1:14)

## **II. See God's Salvation Jesus' Name.**

(Matthew 1:21, 25; John 1:12-13; Acts 4:12)

## **III. See God's Sanctification in Jesus' Name.**

(Matthew 1:23; John 17:15-17; Colossians 1:27)

## **Conclusion: Jesus! What a wonderful Name**

I know a Name, A beautiful Name,  
That Angels brought down to earth;  
They whispered it low, One night long ago,  
To a maiden of lowly birth.  
That beautiful Name, That beautiful Name  
From sin has pow'r to free us!  
That beautiful Name, That beautiful Name, That matchless Name is  
Jesus!

Do you know Jesus in these ways?

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# **“Nativity Characters – The Wise Men, King Herod and Religious Men”**

**Text: Matthew 2:1 - 19**

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

**Introduction:** The old TV series “In Search of...” (1977-1982) and the more recent TV series “The X-Files” (1993-2018) have some things in common with the some of today’s characters of The Nativity. It is noted that the texts selected for today and its characters were not actually a part of the Nativity scene. But they are a part of the traditional Christmas story; therefore, they are included in this sermon series.

Listen closely and see if you might recognize someone you know.

## **I. The Wise Men were True Seekers (Vs. 1-2).**

(Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 60:1-3; Micah 5:2)

## **II. King Herod was a False Seeker (Vs. 3-8).**

## **III. The Religious Men were Idle Waiters (Vs. 4-6).**

(John 5:31-40)

**Conclusion:** Where do you see yourself among these Christmas story characters The Wise Men, King Herod and the Religious Men?

If you have heard the truth of the Christ’s coming into the world to save sinners and become King in their hearts... Well, what you do with it really depends on which of the three you are like.

You must have a response to what knowledge you are given... even your lack of doing something is really a response.

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(Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 60:1-3; Micah 5:2)

**II. King Herod was a \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs. 3-8).**

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