**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 2 February 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Luke 2:8-20**

**Luke 2:8-12**

 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

* Shepherds cared for lambs used for sacrifices in the Temples throughout the year

 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

* Unexpected visitation was terrifying

 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

* They were the recipients of Good News

 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

* Israel’s Messiah was born in Bethlehem
* God chose lowly Shepherds to receive this special announcement
* Shepherds were considered outcast
* They were dirty because they lived with their sheep on the hill sides
* They were not allowed in the temple to worship because shepherds had no status in society
* In **1 Samuel 16**, David’s father Jesse, did not consider David among his brothers because he was a shepherd who had no status in the family or in society—**Read 1 Samuel 16:11-12**

 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

* God’s chosen King of Israel started from humble beginnings
* Jesus Christ our Lord was born in a humble way
* Christ—is Greek for Messiah
* Lord—Greek for Master

 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

* Confirming the Angel’s message, they will have to see for themselves
* The Messiah would be in a Manger wrapped in swaddling cloths
* Swaddling cloth would have not been strange to the shepherds
* Shepherds were responsible for their newborn lambs
* The lambs had to be without a spot or wrinkle, unblemished
* Upon a lamb’s birth—the animal was wrapped in swaddling cloths
* Jesus was the lamb of God
* In order for Jesus to be lamb of God to die for the sins of the world, he had to be a sinless, unblemished Lamb without spot or wrinkle

**Luke 2:13-15**

 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, goodwill toward men!"

 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

* The Angels of Heaven came together to sing of God’s glory

 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" *[upon those who accept His grace and lordship]*

**Note:**

 *The angelic announcement of “peace on earth” is not about quiet tranquility or merely the absence of animosity between people. It is a declaration of the coming end of hostility between a holy God and sinless humanity through the atoning work of the Messiah…*

 *The Son of God came to pay the penalty for our sins and impute to us His righteousness. Only when we have been declared righteous by faith can we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”*

**Rev. Dr. Tony Evans**

**Romans 5:1**

 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

* The Angelic host were an army encamped over Jesus Christ
* Jesus told Peter in Matthew 26:52-53 he did not have to defend him.

 52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

 53 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

* A Roman legion consisted of 6,000 soldiers.
* Jesus said he had twelve (12) legions of Angels at his disposal just for the asking—72,000 angels
* Just one Angel, according to 2 Kings 19:35 was capable of killing 185,000 men
* According to **Revelation 5:11**, the heavenly host of angels are too numerous to count

 “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”

**Luke 2:16-20**

 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

* The shepherds wanted to see for themselves
* The shepherd could not keep the good news to themselves
* They became the first ones to deliver the first Christmas Message

 “And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

* Even though God chose her to give birth to the Savior of the World— Mary humbly kept all this to herself
* God selected Mary because of her humility
* God uses the humble to perform and fulfill God’s Kingdom work

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

 29 so that no one may boast before him.

* God does not call to salvation those whom the world would call—the mighty and the wise
* God reveals Himself to those whom the world considers foolish, weak and common

**Matthew 18:2-4**

 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**2 Chronicles 7:12-14**

 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

 13 "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Psalms 91**

 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

 3 Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,