

Glorify Him!

Song of the Angels

Luke 2:8-14

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Introduction:

- Last week, in England, it was called "D-Day" – the day the Covid Vaccine by Phizer was delivered to hospitals
- We can't get enough of it to be shared, but there is a great desire to have these vaccines distributed worldwide
- There is a more widespread and dangerous disease than Covid – it's the cancer of sin
- It is the cause for individual struggle, societal ills and physical death
- But there is a cure – not manufactured by Phizer or Moderna – but by God who cares about this sin-sicked world
- This panacea is the forgiveness of sin and an inoculation of God's righteousness
- As the government has foot some of the bill for the vaccine, Christ has paid the price for our forgiveness with his life
- But this is why Jesus was born – so that He, as a Man, could die for us
- The fact that the Savior has arrived – as a baby – was cause for praise and joy.

Our Christmas Series is on the songs of praise in Luke 1-2:

- **Praise Him!** (Song of **Elizabeth**, Luke 1:39-45, 57-66)
 - Benedictus Minor Of Elizabeth (1:41-45)
 - **Magnify Him!** (Song of **Mary**, Luke 1:46-56)
 - The Magnificat Of Mary (1:46-55)
 - **Glorify Him!** (Song of the **Angels**, Luke 2:8-14)
 - Gloria of Angels (2:14)
 - **Proclaim Him!** (Song of **Zechariah**, Luke 1:67-80)
 - Benedictus Major Of Zechariah (1:67-79)
 - **Trust Him!** (Song of **Simeon**, Luke 2:25-35)
 - Nunc Dimittis Of Simeon (2:29-32)
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- Today's song is from the Angels
 - The passage that Kelly & Katie read was Mary's song focusing on the **birth** of Christ
 - This song of the angels focuses on the **role** of Christ as the Messiah

Proposition: When there is a cure so great, we want this shared with the world.

1. The Sharing Of Jesus' Birth Overcomes Fear With Joy (8-10)

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

- Ie/ Fred Rogers' family had one of the first televisions in the neighborhood and was disgusted with the content on TV.
 - He was in an award-winning children's show called "The Children's Corner" but wasn't satisfied because, though entertaining, wasn't educational
 - He was asked by a teacher in a Presbyterian seminary he was attending what congregation he wanted to serve at – he said that he wanted to teach children on TV
 - He designed Mr. Roger's Neighborhood how to teach kindness, dealing with fear, divorce, sibling rivalry and death using puppets, video clips and music
 - 895 episodes from 1968 – 2001
 - He had something different and substantive to share
 - He had episodes on death, feeling lost and dealing with anger
 - As a minister, he had a passion to share something moral, practical and life-changing but used the medium of television instead of a pulpit
- **What are you passionate about sharing?**
 - In the age of social media, we love to share things.
 - Our latest outfit, our fancy meal, our marriage proposals or baby's gender
- The **angels were excited to share** about birth of Christ the Savior
 - As Mr. Rogers sought to reach hurting children, the angels sought to reach lowly, grungy shepherds

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- **Shepherds** are viewed in society as the poor, blue collar working class
- They were looked down upon as smelly and dirty, uneducated and unappreciated
- The angels didn't go to the kings or the priests
- Not to the elite
- But to the Shepherds
- This demonstrates God's grace
- The elite, powerful and rich were too busy in their own world
- Ie/ **Covid** has made many of like the Shepherds – suffering financially, feeling powerless.
 - Nobody wanted be around the Shepherds, and in times of Covid people don't want to be around us
 - We've had no choice but to look to a vaccine or herd immunity for deliverance
 - Now there is great anticipation for a vaccination (except for the population that distrusts the FDA and medical research)

- The Shepherd's Field, which had sheep since David was a shepherd, is about 2 miles from Bethlehem
- One commentator (Bock) has suggested these sheep may have been destined to be the sacrificial lambs at the Temple
- The sheep they were tending are most likely the temporary sacrifices until their Savior would become the ultimate sacrificial Lamb

¹⁰**And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.**

- God's messenger (an angel is a messenger as *angelos* means messenger) frightened them
- But the angel responded by saying **Fear Not**
- Any interruption of our usual routine can be a cause for fear
- A visit from an angel would certainly qualify
- But the angel says "Fear not" – "I bring you good news"
- The angel had something to share
- The messenger (*angelos*) has a good message (*euangelizomai*)
 - "Evangelism" comes from this word
- This day the Savior is born!
- That's better news than vaccine delivery that can't cover our country or world for several months
- This good news brings **great joy**
- A day of fear turns into a day of great joy
- When you trust Christ as your Savior, you turn **from fear of judgment to joy in salvation**
- This isn't just for the few million that will be vaccinated by Spring of this year
- This cure is for **all people**
- Including the poor shepherds
- Including all of feeling disregarded and forgotten because of this virus

2. The Sign Of Jesus' Birth Assures Hope In Christ The Savior And Lord (11-12)

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

- "this day" Jesus is born
- 3 terms describing Christ
 - Savior – *soter* – deliverer, rescuer
 - Christ – *christos* – Messiah, the promised deliverer, the anointed one
 - Lord – *kurios* – supreme, most high
- "a sign" accompanies the announcement
 - In a few minutes, Pastor Kevin will give announcements
 - He will use a slideshow to give a visual picture to accompany his verbal announcements
 - The visual reality of the angelic announcement is the baby swaddled in a manger

- The reality of salvation has been verbally pronounced and visually proven
- The world will turn upside down for these shepherds and for us
- We will be saved from our sin

3. The Surprise Of Jesus' Birth Overcomes Strife With Peace (13-14)

¹³And 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 among those with whom he is pleased!"

- "**suddenly**" = unexpectedly, a **contrasting surprise**
- Shock value
- **3 pairs of words** that contrast each other that enhance the shock and surprise of the birth of the God-Man
 - **Heaven, earth**
 - **Glory, peace**
 - **God**, those he is pleased in (**man**)
- From **heaven** to **earth**
 - From the heavenlies, the angelic choir sang in praise to God
 - To earth below
 - Christ left heaven to make an impact on earth
 - In heaven, Christ reigned as 2nd Person of the Triune God
 - On earth, the Son of God became a Man to save those He created on earth
- From the fanfare of **glorious praise** to the steadiness of **earthly peace**
 - "**Glory**" = *doxa*
 - Either describing the attribute of God or the response of praise to God
 - Bock suggests the latter (p. 220)
 - "**Peace**" = *Eirene* – the equivalent to the Hebrew word *Shalom*
 - This is a reference to a repaired relationship
 - Ie/ Some frustrated teen needs peace with his/her parent
 - Ie/ Some spouse needs to forgive the other spouse to bring the peace of a repaired relationship
 - Man's sin has repelled us from God our Creator
 - Now with a Savior, we can have peace with God
- From **God** to **man** ("with whom he is pleased")
 - God has peace with man "with whom he is pleased" – this is "a technical phrase in first-century Judaism for God's elect, those on whom God has poured out his favor." (Bock, *Luke, ECNT, Vol. 1*, p. 220)
 - He is pleased in those who call Christ as Savior

Conclusion:

- God has a vaccine for sin he wants to share with the world – His Son, Jesus Christ.
- God's work of salvation for man is glorious because it brings peace with God from heaven to earth.