



December 11, 2016

Pastor Chris Hill

An Unexpected Journey

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished... ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Luke 2:8-18, 20 (NLT)

The Excluded

- Drifters and dishonest _____
- The _____

They Received An Invitation

- It was _____

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

C. S. Lewis, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

- It was _____

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! **Isaiah 52:7 (NLT)**

- It was worth leaving _____ behind

⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him.

Philippians 3:8-9 (NLT)

- It was worth _____

The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the LORD returning to Jerusalem.

Isaiah 52:8 (NLT)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Memorize and or meditate on Luke 2:17
- Be willing to lay aside something I’ve been holding on to that has been keeping me from experiencing God’s good news for me.
- To share the Good News with others.
- Respond to God’s invitation to begin the journey with Him by receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.



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