

Shepherds of THE Lamb

Luke 2:8-20

Big Idea: Jesus wasn't born in a manger by accident—He was wrapped like a sacrificial lamb. The shepherds who cared for temple sacrifices were the first to see Him. Why? Because the Lamb of God came to take away the sin of the world. Worthy is the Lamb!

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus was born to die as the blood sacrifice for our sins - He is the spotless Lamb of God.
2. The Christmas story is not coincidental - every detail points to Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb who would take away the sin of the world.
3. This message is for all people - from every tribe, tongue, and nation. No one is excluded from God's offer of salvation.
4. We are called to be messengers - just as the shepherds shared what they had seen and heard, we are to tell others about Jesus.
5. Worship should be our response - like the angels and heavenly hosts, we should praise God for sending the Lamb.

Scriptures:

- ☐ Isaiah 49:6
- ☐ Luke 2:29-32
- ☐ 1 Peter 1:18-19
- ☐ Leviticus 17:11
- ☐ Hebrews 9:22
- ☐ Isaiah 53:7
- ☐ John 1:29
- ☐ Revelation 5:8-14

Opening Question:

What is your favorite Christmas tradition, and why is it meaningful to you? How does it connect (or not connect) to the real meaning of Christmas?

Discussion Questions:

Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first to hear about Jesus' birth? What is significant about the fact that many sheep in Bethlehem were raised for temple sacrifices?

The angel told the shepherds they would find a baby "wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." How does this connect to the way sacrificial lambs were prepared? What does this reveal about Jesus' purpose?

The angel proclaimed "good news of great joy that will be for all people" (Luke 2:10). How does this universal invitation challenge or encourage you personally?

The sermon mentioned we need to "recapture this childlike awe for who Jesus is." When did you last feel genuine wonder about Jesus and what He has done? What causes us to lose that sense of awe?

Mary "treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). What spiritual practices help you treasure and ponder what God is doing in your life?

Pastor Tim suggested there's a direct link between seeing God's glory and having peace in our hearts. Do you agree? How have you experienced this connection?

How does understanding Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" change how you view your own sin and need for salvation?

The shepherds "made known the saying that had been told to them" (Luke 2:17). The sermon challenged us to become messengers like the shepherds and angels. What barriers keep you from sharing the gospel with others?

Pastor Tim gave practical suggestions for sharing this message (sermon notes in a card, conversation over coffee, etc.). Which idea resonates with you? Who is one specific person you could share this message with this week?

Practical Applications:

1. Share the Message: Give your sermon notes or a summary card to someone who needs to hear about Jesus. This could be in a Christmas card, over coffee, or in conversation with a family member.
2. Worship Practice: Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to simply worship Jesus as the Lamb of God. Read Revelation 5:8-14 aloud and join the heavenly chorus.
3. Study the Pattern: Read through the Old Testament passages about sacrificial lambs (Exodus 12, Leviticus 17, Isaiah 53) and journal about how they point to Jesus.
4. Host a Conversation: Invite a non-believing friend or family member for coffee or a meal and share what Christmas means to you personally.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

How can we each act as messengers of hope, sharing the true meaning of Christmas and the sacrificial love of Jesus with someone in need this week?
