



Fear Not, You are Important to God

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

WARM-UP

- Tell us about the most interesting news you heard this week.
- What makes you happy? Why?
- How do you show someone that s/he is important to you?
What do you do?

WORD

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. 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." **LUKE 2:8-12**

(Read also **LUKE 2:13-20**.)

In this time and culture, shepherds were part of the lowest members of society. They were rarely in the city because they had to take care of their flocks. However, these shepherds were the **first** to receive the announcement of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. God not only made sure they were the first to know, He also had Jesus born in the one place shepherds did not need to ask permission to go into—a barn, where He was lying in a manger. In this lesson, we will look at three ways God shows us we are important to Him.

1 Good News

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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." **LUKE 2:10,11**

Not only had Israel been exiled from their homes to Babylon, they were now living under the Roman Empire even if they were back in their land. The Israelites did not even have a country of their own. Their hope was for the future King and Savior. The news the shepherds received was good news indeed—the best news they had ever received. Christmas is a time of good news, because it is a time of celebration for when the promise was fulfilled and our King and Savior was born. How do you think the shepherds felt and reacted when they heard the good news?

.....

.....

2 Great Joy

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." LUKE 2:10

The angel was not just promising the shepherds good news. He was delivering good news that brought *great joy*. He was affirming that there would be fulfillment that came with the news. It is like the difference between "good news, your delivery is here" and "great joy, the surgery was successful." The Christmas story is about Christ the Lord, who was born as King and Savior for all people. The angel was telling the shepherds—the social outcasts—that he was bringing *good news of great joy* that applied even to them, the lowest members of society. How did you get saved, and how was that a moment of *great joy*? How are you sharing this *great joy* with others?

3 God's Glory

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!" . . . ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. LUKE 2:13,14,20

Zechariah the priest, Mary the teenage girl, and Joseph the carpenter were all told that the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel was on its way. In this part of the story, though, the angel was telling the shepherds to give glory to God because the Savior had finally been born! The birth of the Christ was good news, and it brought great joy to the shepherds who heard this good news. This good news, the Christmas story, is meant to bring peace and great joy no matter what situation we are in. Because of this great joy, the shepherds, and we, give glory to God as an expression of that joy. The ultimate ending to this story is the glory of God. How did the shepherds give glory to God? How do you give glory to Him, now and every day?

APPLICATION

- Do you believe you are important to God, and that the good news of the Christmas story applies to you? Would you like to learn more about the Christmas story and how it applies to your life?
- Knowing you are important to God, how should this affect the way you live and pray? How does it help you to fear not?
- How can you become a channel of God's love and joy to your family and friends this holiday season? How can Christmas become a way for you to preach the gospel?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the good news of salvation. Thank Him for His love, and the joy and hope we have in Him.
- Ask God to help you realize that His love applies to you in whatever situation you are in. Ask Him to help you show that kind of love to others this season.
- Pray that you will become a channel of God's love to your family and friends this season, and that you will be able to show them why they are important to God and what He did to show this—in the manger and on the cross.



VICTORY

© 2016 by VICTORY®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.
victory.org.ph