



RESPONDING TO THE MANGER

LUKE 2:8-20

## **Interactions with Jesus always demands a response**

- John 3 Nicodemus, “You must be born again.”
- John 4 Woman at well, “I am the Messiah you speak of.”
- John 6 “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”
- John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”

## **Interactions with Jesus always demanded a response**

- John 14:1 “You believe in God, believe in me also.”
- Mark 5 Women who touched Jesus and was healed, “Who touched me?”
- So, it should not surprise us to find there are various responses to the birth of Jesus, the manager

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,  
Luke 2:8-15a**

- 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,**  
**Luke 2:8-15a**

- 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,**  
**Luke 2:8-15a**

- **vs. 15** When (then) angels had left them and gone into heaven
- Get the scene in your mind—quiet, dark, uneventful—the shepherd's hope
  - Suddenly, explosively and unexpectedly
  - Glory of the Lord shown around them, think of a spotlight

**We see the angels going from rejoicing to silence,**  
**Luke 2:8-15a**

- Suddenly a great company of heavenly host
- The response from heaven is rejoicing, glorifying God in the highest to the highest
- They know who this child is, Rejoiced around His throne in heaven

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,  
Luke 2:8-15a**

- How Jesus was responded to in heaven has been transferred to earth for a brief time
  - Then silence
  - From this point forward Jesus would be identified with sinful man and sinful man is not worthy of heaven's glory

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,  
Luke 2:8-15a**

- **1st Peter 1:10-12 NLT** 10 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

**We see the angles going from rejoicing to silence,**  
**Luke 2:8-15a**

- **1st Peter 1:10-12 NLT** 12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.
  - (NIV) Even angels long to look into these things.

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,  
Luke 2:15b-17**

15b The shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,  
Luke 2:15b-17**

- The introduction of the Messiah demands a response from these men
- They could have remained in their fear—being disappointed in what they find, not able to find the child, not going near that thing
- They could have put it off to a more suitable time

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,  
Luke 2:15b-17**

- I'm sure they reasoned with themselves
  - God has shown this to us—why?
  - Angel talked about a Savior and peace to all men on earth on whom God's favor rests
  - How do we get God's favor?

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,  
Luke 2:15b-17**

- “Let’s go see this thing.”—this event, child and everything around and about him
- Much like the crowd around Jesus just to be a part of the event but to investigate for belief
- They left the manager excited and full of faith—they told everyone who would listen to them, probably from this evening forward until they took their last breath

## We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace, **Luke 2:15b-17**

- They left different then when they came, in faith and peace
- **vs. 20 NIV** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,**  
**Luke 2:15b-17**

- 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.
- They rejoiced because God's Word was proven true in their lives

**We see the shepherds going from fearfulness to peace,**  
**Luke 2:15b-17**

- They will remember this event
- What will guide them the rest of their lives is the truthfulness of God's Word

## We see the people going from being marveled to forgetfulness, **Luke 2:18**

- **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
- All who heard the shepherd's story marveled—amazed, astonished, wondered
  - Some would be astonished God would choose shepherds to be His witness
  - Some were amazed at the story they told and wished it could be true

**We see the people going from being marveled to forgetfulness, **Luke 2:18****

- What I don't read is any of them going to the manger like the shepherds did
  - They did not put feet to their faith
  - It was a busy time with all the people coming in for the census

## **We see the people going from being marveled to forgetfulness, **Luke 2:18****

- What I don't read is any of them going to the manager like the shepherds did
  - There were preparations to make for all the family they had not seen in years
  - There were parties to plan, meals to prepare for, spaces to clean out

**We see the people going from being marveled to forgetfulness, **Luke 2:18****

- After all, they were just shepherds
- They were just too busy

## We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child

- **vs. 19 NIV** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- There are some events we treasure and remember—marriage, birth of child, some hardship or blessing
- Mary never forgot this evening and how God strengthen her and Joseph as they wondered what to do with this child

## **We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child**

- Simply remembering is not pondered them in her heart
  - It means to think about something carefully in your head -- to weigh it in your mind
  - It implies a serious process of mental activity – a careful consideration of all the factors involved

## **We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child**

- Simply remembering is not pondered them in her heart
  - She contemplated the shepherds, lowly and smelly and rough around the edges, who came and knelt before the baby who had been kicking inside her womb, even though she'd been a virgin.

## **We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child**

- Simply remembering is not pondered them in her heart
  - She pondered the angel who spoken to her and the message he brought, the quickening in her womb even the miracle of his cousin John.
  - She pondered the trek to Jerusalem and the ancient prophecies.

## **We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child**

- Simply remembering is not pondered them in her heart
  - This wasn't tucking something away in the dark recesses of her heart, but rather a holding of them closely so that she could feel and touch and smell them.
  - And she did so frequently.

## We see Mary going from treasuring the event in her heart to pondering the wonder of her child

- The Old Testament word is meditation
  - **Joshua 1:8 NIV** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
  - **Jeremiah 29:13 NIV** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**So, my question to us this morning is, “What is your response to the Messiah, Savior, Lord Jesus Christ this morning?”**

- As the shepherds went to the manger we today go to the cross where our Savior took upon Himself the penalty of sinful mankind
  - Are you like the angels—quick flash then nothing
  - Maybe like the people—would be nice and I will get around to it someday

**So, my question to us this morning is, “What is your response to the Messiah, Savior, Lord Jesus Christ this morning?”**

- Maybe the shepherd—you put feet to your faith and came to the cross then left
- Or maybe Mary and Joseph—who put faith in their lives and treasured and pondered the Word of the Living God

**So, my question to us this morning is, “What is your response to the Messiah, Savior, Lord Jesus Christ this morning?”**

- Each of us must make a response this morning because we have interacted with the Word of God

A dramatic landscape scene. In the foreground, a wooden structure, possibly a manger or a simple altar, is built with dark wood and has some dry grass or straw on top. The structure is set on a rocky, uneven ground. In the background, a large, bright sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow across the sky and the landscape. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. On a distant hill, three crosses are visible against the bright light of the sun. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

What will your response be?