



Who Is Jesus? Luke 2:8-11

Who is Jesus?

- God was having a problem with one of His prophets
 - The prophet Jonah was rebelling and running from God
 - He was told by God to go to the Gentile city of Nineveh and proclaim God's wrath was coming upon them if they did not repent
 - Jonah hated Nineveh and wanted them destroyed by God's wrath so he ran away from God or so he thought
 - God's wrath came upon Jonah in a storm at sea and he ended up being thrown overboard and sinking to the bottom

Who is Jesus?

- The prophet Jonah was rebelling and running from God
 - There in his despair Jonah needed rescuing, needed a savior and God provided one
 - **Jonah 1:17 ESV**, And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
 - Jonah prayed to God in the belly of the fish and God heard him
 - **Jonah 2:10 ESV**, And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Who is Jesus?

- Jonah was miraculously saved in a way he could have never imagined
- Mankind finds itself much like Jonah
 - Drowning underneath our personal debt of sin before God without any way to recover
 - Running from God and rejecting His will and way for you
 - But God in His great grace appointed a Savior, and much like Jonah, He did it in a way we could never have imagined

Scripture

- **Luke 2:8-11 ESV**, 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Who Is Jesus?

- We have been answering the question, “Who is Jesus?”
 - He is both Son of God and Son of Man
 - He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
 - He is our Good Shepherd
 - He is our Wonderful Counselor in this corrupt world
 - He is our Prince of Peace
 - He is our Joy of the Lord
 - He is my Savior

The first word the shepherds heard was, “Fear not”

- God’s first word to you this morning is, “Fear not”
- As Jonah is about to die, all hope gone, hear God say to him, “Fear Not Jonah”
 - “I know you are rebelling against me Jonah”
 - “I know you are deserving of death and separation from Me Jonah”
 - “I know you are helpless and hopeless Jonah”
 - “But fear not Jonah”

The first word the shepherds heard was, “Fear not”

- As Jonah is sloshing around in the fish, hear God say, “Fear not Jonah”
 - There is mercy and grace available to you Jonah, even inside the fish
 - There is forgiveness available to you Jonah, even inside the fish
 - Inside the fish, God heard Jonah’s repentant prayer and he was forgiven and place back on the road to Nineveh

The first word the shepherds heard was, “Fear not”

- This might be you this morning
 - You are presently running from God, rejecting Him and His provision
 - Your present circumstance might compare to Jonah in the fish
 - You don't see any solution to your problems
 - God's word for you this morning is, “Fear Not!”
 - You are not out of My sight
 - You are not out of My hands
 - I have not rejected you, even though it feels that way

The first word the shepherds heard was, “Fear not”

- King David wondered if he had slipped out of God’s hands
 - **Psalms 139:7-12 NIV**, 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- Because of this Christian, “Fear Not!”

The second word to the shepherds was, “I bring you good news of great joy for all people”

- **Vs. 10** “Fear Not for behold”
 - Don’t fear but behold
 - Behold = To perceive through sight or appreciation, To be sure to see and not miss, Examine closely, Pay close attention
 - Stop what you are doing or thinking of and absorb what is coming
 - **John 1:29 ESV**, 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

The second word to the shepherds was, “I bring you good news of great joy for all people”

- The message that God has for you is so vast, deep, wonderful it can only be described as bringing “*great joy*” when you hear it
 - If and only if you will accept what is being said and respond
 - “For all people”
 - This includes you, not just Jews, church members, gifted pastors
 - This includes the hurting, lost, failures, addicted, successful, gifted, withered, lonely

The second word to the shepherds was, “I bring you good news of great joy for all people”

- All people – every stripe, color, form, position, place
 - A prophet would not be sufficient for this message nor a priest
- God sent His angels to announce His message to you
- Joy has come into your dark world
- Hope has come into your world

The good news is a Savior has been born and appointed

- **Jonah 1:17 ESV**, And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.
 - To rescue Jonah from his rejection of God
 - To protect Jonah and bring him through God's wrath for his rebellion

The good news is a Savior has been born and appointed

- God has appointed and provided a Savior to be born into our world
 - The one promised to Adam and Eve has been born
 - God's own sacrifice replacing Isaac has been born
 - The Passover lamb has been born
 - The one the Law of Moses pointed to has been born
 - A Kinsman Redeemer has been born
 - The One to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords has been born
 - A Savior has been born for you which is Christ the Lord

The good news is a Savior has been born and appointed

- A Savior from what?
 - The wrath of God is coming to every person
 - Seen first in physical death that will come to every one of us because of our sinfulness
 - But far greater is the eternal wrath of God
 - Noah and his family were saved from the wrath of God by an ark
 - Jonah was saved from the wrath of God by a fish
 - They went through God's wrath, but they were protected
 - Daniel was rescued from the wrath of the lions den

The good news is a Savior has been born and appointed

- Jesus is our ark
- Jesus is our fish that will carry us through the coming wrath of God into His glorious presence by becoming our substitute on the cross
- The people in Noah's time had to choose go through the one door provided on the ark
- We must choose to step into the saving grace of Jesus through our faith which is the only way
- **Romans 10:13 ESV**, For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
 - Will be forgiven and accepted in the protection provided by Jesus

The good news is a Savior has been born and appointed

- **Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV**, 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

My Savior

- So, who did Mary place in that manger?
 - He is both Son of God and Son of Man
 - He is the Lamb of God, who takes away my sin
 - He is my Good Shepherd
 - He is my Wonderful Counselor in this corrupt world
 - He is my Prince of Peace
 - He is my Joy of the Lord
 - He is my deliverer
- I pray He is yours as well



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