

Angelic Visitation - Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

December 17, 2006

Glory Shining

- **Why Shepherds?**
- **Fear not!**
- **The Shekinah**

Good News Announced

- **In Bethlehem**
- **A Baby**
- **A Savior**

Gloria in Excelsis

- **The Angles Song**

- **The Shepherds**

They Spread the Word

Home Study Guide

Monday: Luke 2 Review your sermon notes. What was the essential message of the Angel? Why was it so important?

Tuesday: Rev 5 Compare this scene and the song with the angels in LK 2.

Wednesday: Isa 40 Why would God describe himself as a shepherd? What image does that develop in your mind?

Sunday's sermon will be "Royal Visitation - Magi" Matt 2:1-12

Thursday: Dan 2 Who were the king's counselors? How might they be related to the Magi?

Friday: Rev 12 Is this related to the birth of Christ? Why, why not?

Saturday: Mat 27 How do we know that Jesus was King of the Jews? How was this acknowledged by the Magi?

Memory: Matt 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Prayer Items:

Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

Q. 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions. Matt. 5:28; Eph. 5:3-4

This is an enormously comprehensive command. Jesus exposed the erroneous view of the Pharisees when he taught that it is not just outward action, but inner desire and thought that cause one to break this commandment.

The outward breaking of this command, just like all the others, begins with heart attitudes and longings. We become discontent, or convince ourselves that we need more than God has provided for us; and in so doing we devalue the grace of God and cast ourselves into a downward spiral of desire, craving and sin.

We need rather to focus our attention, so that, we marvel in the grace of God, and count our blessings daily, moment by moment. Occupying our minds in this way will not allow for advancement toward that slippery slope.

God here forbids all those thoughts, words and actions, which may lead us in a direction toward sexual sin. We have, by indulgence in our debauched culture, desensitized ourselves from much of what is sinful and dangerous. Tons of what is seen and done in TV commercials, sitcoms, and variety shows would come in under this rubric, not to mention the absolute trash that is promoted today as “TV talk shows!”

The primary reason these programs exist is that people watch them. Let us not break the seventh commandment by joining in the foolishness of the world, and wasting our time with this kind of programming. Let us work to sharpen our sensitivities. Let us set standards for our homes and remove from ourselves, as much as possible, those things that would lead us toward committing adultery in thought, word or deed!

Most importantly let us fill our minds with the good grace of God and all he has provided for us especially Christ as our propitiation and substitute. We stand united to him in the Father's presence and are granted every spiritual blessing in him!