

Luke 2:8-20

1. The Birth of Jesus

The true King has come. The Messiah, Christ, and Savior promised in the Bible has finally come. The Son of God has become a man to save his people from all their sins.

Isaiah 9:6-7, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

God the Son was born on this earth as a baby to become the only Savior of us hopeless sinners, but this world did not know Him. No one knew what was happening when Jesus was born. Why was that? The greatest reason was because Jesus, the true King, Lord, Christ, and God, did not take any of the worldly glory and was born as the most humble and insignificant baby. Moreover, sinners who did not acknowledge their hopeless reality did not realize at all why God had to become so low as a man.

When Jesus was born, the whole world was asleep. The whole world was in darkness. Light shone in the darkness, but the darkness did not realize it. Jesus, the true light, came to save sinners, the light of heaven shone in the dark world, and the good news of salvation was delivered, but no one realized it. Sinners who live only by what they see with their eyes never see such amazing spiritual things happening. We must always remember this. This is the reality that the gospel tells us. We must remember that a spiritual reality is greater and more amazing than the visible reality.

The incarnation of Jesus, the gospel of the cross, our regeneration, and all the other realities of the grace of salvation and the blessings of heaven that we enjoy are all the same. None of them are revealed in the visible reality of this world. Therefore, we must not judge or try to prove the reality of the salvation of heaven that we enjoy by the reality of this world. The glory of our Jesus was not revealed in the glory of this world from the time he was born until he was crucified and died. However, we true believers look upon the glory of Jesus, which is greater and more amazing, even though we cannot see it with our eyes. The same goes for the event of Jesus' birth. He was born as such a humble and insignificant baby, and there is no worldly glory to be seen in him, but isn't the amazing glory of heaven revealed? Isn't the glory of our salvation revealed there? Therefore, we must also remember this. Our glory is in the glory of Jesus. Therefore, our glory must be seen and found in Jesus by faith.

In the Old Testament, the reality of the glory and blessings enjoyed by the kingdom of God and the people of God was revealed as the earthly reality, but it was all a foreshadowing and shadow of what was to come. Now, after Jesus came, after Jesus brought the glory and blessings of the eternal kingdom of heaven, the reality of the glory and blessings enjoyed by the kingdom of God and the people of God is no longer revealed as the earthly reality or as the reality of this world. The glory of Jesus is hidden in this world, and our glory is also hidden in this world. That is why we must rightly testify to the gospel. We cannot go on to spread the glory and blessings of Christianity with the glory and blessings of the world. Isn't this so clear from the birth of Jesus?

Think about it. In the village of Nazareth in Galilee, a lowly carpenter named Joseph and his wife Mary came to Bethlehem to register their family, but since there was no room to stay in, they stayed in a place where livestock lived. When the time came for Mary to give birth, she gave birth to a baby in that lowly place, and since there was no place to put the baby, she put the baby in a manger, which was a feeding trough for livestock. Who would have seen the glory of the true king, Christ, the Son of God, and the

Savior in the baby? If only those whom God truly gave grace to open their spiritual eyes could see that glory through faith, they would never have been able to see that glory. This is the gospel. This is Christianity. Jesus came to this earth in this way. He came as a baby that the world could never recognize. He came as a baby that the world could never accept.

Do you remember the words we shared yesterday? In Luke 2:7, which is the verse right before today's text, it says that when Jesus was born, there was no room for him. Isn't it so sad? God came to this earth to save His people, but He had no place to lay His head. What else does this tell us? There is no place for God in this sinful world and the hearts of sinners. Why is that? Because they have all abandoned God. Because they have all left God. However, in this sinful world where everyone has abandoned and left God, He did not come as a judge but was born as a baby who truly had no place to lay His head. Why was that? He had mercy on these hopeless sinners and wanted to save them. Because we had no hope at all, Jesus humbled Himself to become a man like us to accomplish all salvation in our place. That is why the good news of the gospel was proclaimed when Jesus was born.

2. Good news of great joy

Luke 2:8-10, "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.'"

Near the place where Jesus was born, shepherds were watching their flocks at night, and then an angel appeared and told them good news of great joy. An angel stood beside them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. In other words, God Himself descended with the angels. At that time, the shepherds were greatly feared before the holy glory of God. Since sinners standing before the glory of the holy God is a terrifying reality of judgment, they could not help but be greatly feared. At that time, the angel told them not to be afraid, but to proclaim them the good news of the gospel, not judgment.

Verse 10 says, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. In other words, What kind of news is that? How good is it that all the people of the world will enjoy great joy? That good news was the news that the Savior Jesus Christ was born.

Luke 2:11-12, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

The best news that gives us sinners the greatest joy is that God came as a man to save us. Is there any better news than this? He refers to Him as the Savior, Christ, the Lord. That is, He is the Savior who came to save us from all sins, the Christ promised in the Old Testament, and the Lord God who became a man. But what is the sign that the Savior, Christ, the Lord has come? Where does He tell us to go and confirm it? He tells us to go and confirm it with the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. He says that He is the Savior, Christ, the Lord.

That baby, lying in the most humble and insignificant place in the world, is the greatest joy and the best news for all people. It is our Jesus. Jesus Christ is the good news of the greatest joy. Not only that but to whom does he reveal this gospel and the glory of God? The rich and powerful of the world? Does He first reveal Jesus to them and reveal the gospel and the glory of God as a powerful and rich reality in the world? No. He reveals the gospel and the glory of God to the lowly and insignificant shepherds of the world who can't go home that night nor sleep, but dwell among the flocks, and watch over those flocks.

They are the first to hear the best news of the greatest joy for all the people. And as we will see now, through them God receives praise and glory, and through them the gospel is testified.

Saints, God has given us the best news of the greatest joy that will come to all the people, just as given to these shepherds. He is giving us the best news of the greatest joy today. It is the gospel. The Savior, the Lord Christ, has come. What about us? Is the Lord Jesus Christ who came to save us the best news that gives us the greatest joy? Where can we go to confirm this best news of the greatest joy? The baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the sign, and God tells us to go there and confirm it. What kind of absurd sign is this? He shows us the reality of the immense glory and blessings that will astonish the people of the world, and even if He says that this is the sign of the greatest joy and the best news that He will give us, we would not believe it, but He points to the most insignificant baby lying in a manger and tells us to confirm that this is the sign and the best news of the greatest joy. This is the gospel.

However, this sign of the gospel does not stop here. Look at Jesus' entire life. Sinners wanted other signs of the world, but Jesus testified only to the same sign from the time He was born. Jesus not only went down a path of humility after His birth, but He eventually fully revealed the sign of the gospel by suffering and dying on the cross. He died in the most miserable and worthless manner in the world. Just as when he was born, he died without a place to lay his head, and he was crucified and killed like the worst criminal among the robbers. Furthermore, he was completely abandoned by God. However, the greatest joy and the best news that will be given to all the people is completely revealed there. The only sign that we, the saints, must hold onto is there.

It is the gospel of the cross. The sign of this gospel of the cross is only visible to those who have been born again by the grace of the Holy Spirit and have faith. We are those who hold onto this gospel of the cross as the best news that gives us the greatest joy. And there, our praise and thanksgiving are overflowed. May God give us this faith, restore this faith, and help us live by this faith. So may we overflow with joy and thanksgiving and praise because of our Jesus who was born as a baby in a manger and died on the cross to save us. In today's text, when the angel proclaimed the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger as the good news of great joy for all the people, and when the gospel was proclaimed, what happened there?

3. Glory to God and peace to us

Luke 2:13-14, "And 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!"

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Brothers and sisters, please look at this blessed scene. When the gospel is proclaimed, when Jesus is preached as the most joyful and best news of the gospel, God is present in that place and a multitude of heavenly hosts praise God. Even now, when the gospel is preached and Jesus is proclaimed, the same spiritual reality is happening. God is present and a multitude of heavenly hosts praise God. This is the reality where we are right now. Then, what should we do as we are present in the place where the gospel is proclaimed? Even the angels who cannot enjoy the reality of salvation like us praise God, so shouldn't we give all thanks and praise to God who gave us Jesus as the best news that gives us the greatest joy and saved us? In today's text, we see that the shepherds who saw all these scenes and met Jesus lying in the manger also participated in the angelic host's song of praise and gave thanks and praise to God.

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

What is the content of the hymn that the heavenly hosts sang while praising God? Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Glory to God, peace to us! What kind of peace is this? It is the peace that was made between God and us sinners. When we were sinners, we were enemies of God and the object of God's infinite wrath, but God offered His Son as the eternal sacrifice of atonement and reconciled us so that eternal peace came to us. That is why Jesus came to us as the King of Peace.

If you look again at verse 12, the angel told the shepherds to go and see the baby lying in the manger, and if you look from verse 15 onwards, the shepherds immediately obeyed and went to meet the baby Jesus and were very happy. When they first met the angel and stood before the glory of God, they were very afraid, but now they are very happy before God who was born as a baby. This is because they heard the good news of the gospel. Only the gospel can make us stand before God with joy. And because God came as a weak man like us, He made it possible for us to approach Him with boldness and joy. And it did not stop there. The shepherds spread the good news of great joy that the angel had told them, the gospel, to Mary, Joseph, and the people there.

Luke 2:15-19, "When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

And just as the angels sing with praise after delivering the good news of the gospel, so the shepherds sing praising God with delivering the good news of the gospel.

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

We see the true believers through these shepherds. They hear the gospel, meet Jesus, give thanks and praise, worship God, and live as those who spread the gospel. These shepherds represent all of us saints. God has given us the gospel, the good news of great joy. Jesus was born. God became a man like us to save us. He took our sins on Himself and went to the cross, shedding His blood to pay for all our sins. He lived a righteous life, completely obeying God in our place until He died. We sinners who should have been judged in hell forever have become children of God who belong to heaven forever. Thus, we who used to tremble in fear of judgment now live in the joy and gratitude of salvation, worshiping God. Therefore, saints, please always hold on to Jesus as the best news of our greatest joy, give thanks and praise to God, and joyfully spread the word of Jesus.