



**Recap from
the last study:**

Storms That Test
Matthew 7:24-29

- God gives us building instructions in His Word
- Our obedience determines wise vs. foolish building.

HE'S HERE! EMMANUEL IS WITH US! SEEK HIM - FIND HIM - SHARE HIM

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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. 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."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, 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, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



LET'S EXPLORE LUKE 2:1-20

Observe

Verses 1-7

- **Verses 1-2:** What was going on in society at that time?
- **Verses 3-6:**
 - Where was Joseph at and where did he go?
 - Who did he take with him?
 - What circumstances were they facing in verses 6-7?
 - Read Isaiah 9:6-7
 - The end of verse 7: *"The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this"*
 - Read Luke 2:7 again
 - Those who don't make room for Him will miss out of hosting His glory.
 - God doesn't need circumstances to be perfect in order to accomplish His will. He will have his way...even in messy situations.

Verses 8-20

- **Verses 8-10:** Who? Where? What time of day?
 - God delights in revealing His glory to ordinary people in the darkest of times. The circumstances in which He chooses to reveal Himself often terrify us at first. But then He brings comfort as He begins to explain.
 - Verse 10: *"...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*
 - Good news for who? ALL PEOPLE! Even the ones who don't look like you, vote like you, talk like you, think like you. **All people** are eligible to receive **His good news!**
- **Verses 11-12:** God gives instruction when we listen to His voice.
 - God gives confirmation when we listen AND obey the instruction. Putting our obedience with faith into action, confirmation & signs will come.
- **Verse 13:** *"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God..."*
 - Shepherds were just doing their job one night, when they experienced a divine interruption. Now they get to witness the heavens opening.
 - Prayer: Lord, interrupt us! Open the heavens that we may join in with the angels declaring Your holiness!
- **Verse 15:** A genuine divine interruption produces fruit: actions of obedience.
- **Verse 16:** A genuine divine interruption produces a desire to seek Him. We can never get enough.
- **Verse 17:** A genuine divine interruption produces a zeal to share Him with others!
- **Verse 20:** A genuine divine interruption produces worship and a deeper trust in Him...because what He said has come to pass. He indeed is faithful and trustworthy!

Interpret:

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

In Luke 2:1-20, the ordinary tasks of life were interrupted by the extraordinary. The chapter begins with a decree from Caesar Augustus, prompting Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem for the census. Bethlehem, what would seem an insignificant town, becomes the scene for the birth of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Born in the most humble of circumstances—laid in a manger because there was no room at the inn—Jesus' arrival fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end." The promise of a Savior breaking into a dark world reminds us that God often works in unexpected places and ways.

Meanwhile, a group of shepherds experience their own extraordinary interruption. They are watching over their sheep at night—a quiet, repetitive and mundane job—when suddenly, an angel of the Lord appears, and the glory of God lights up the darkness. Fear grips them, but the angel delivers a message of hope: "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." This moment mirrors how God interrupts the routine and darkness of our lives. Like the shepherds, we may feel unprepared or insignificant, yet God meets us right where we are, revealing Himself in ways that demand a response.

The shepherds don't stay where they are; they act. Stirred by the angel's words, they obey, seek out the Christ child, and witness the truth of the angel's proclamation. After seeing Jesus, they share the good news with everyone they encounter, unable to contain the wonder of what they have experienced. Their actions reflect the purpose of God's interruptions in our lives: to awaken us from our routines, stir us to seek Him, and compel us to share His love and truth with others. It's a reminder that God's message is for all people—rich and poor, known and unknown—and He uses ordinary people to proclaim His extraordinary plan.

This story resonates with us today because we, too, live in a world filled with darkness and distraction. Yet God still interrupts—through quiet moments of reflection, a timely word, or even life's unexpected challenges. Like the shepherds, we are invited to listen, obey, and seek Him, even when it feels inconvenient or uncomfortable. Jesus' birth, celebrated on that dark night in Bethlehem, is a message of hope that cuts through our chaos. It calls us to see God's light in our lives, embrace His peace, and share the good news with a world longing for something real. God's interruptions are not meant to derail us but to awaken us to His love and purpose.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

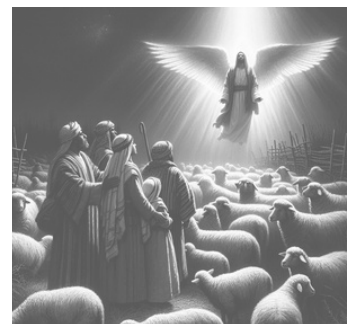
- **Divine Interruption:** Where in your life has God interrupted your routine or darkness to reveal Himself, and how did you respond? Reflect on a time when an unexpected situation or message stirred you to listen, seek Him, or take action.
- **Share Him:** Like the shepherds, are you sharing the good news of what God has done in your life with others? What might be holding you back from sharing, and how can you step into that role more boldly this week?
- **Slow Down For Him:** In what areas of your life do you need to slow down and listen for God's interruptions? Consider the busyness, routines, or challenges that may be distracting you from noticing His presence and purpose.
- **Host His Presence:** How can you make space in your daily life to recognize and respond to God's presence, even in unexpected or ordinary moments?
- **He Looks for a Response:** The shepherds acted quickly to seek Jesus after hearing the angel's message. What might God be calling you to act on right now, and what step of obedience can you take today?
- **His Peace is Yours:** Isaiah 9:6-7 describes Jesus as the Prince of Peace. In what area of your life do you need His peace, and how can you trust Him to bring it into that situation?

Closing Prayer...

Heavenly Father, thank You for interrupting the ordinary with Your extraordinary presence. Just as You revealed Yourself to the shepherds in the quiet of the night, I ask that You open my heart to recognize Your voice in the midst of my routines and distractions.

Help me to slow down and listen for Your leading, even when life feels dark or overwhelming. Lord, I invite You into my life to stir me into action—whether that means seeking You more deeply, stepping out in obedience, or sharing Your good news with others.

Jesus, You are the light in our darkness and the Prince of Peace. Fill me with Your peace where I need it most, and give me the courage to trust You fully. May my life reflect the wonder of Your love and the hope You bring to the world. Like the shepherds, let me go forward with joy, proclaiming what I have seen and experienced in You. Stir my heart to obedience, my spirit to seek You, and my words to share Your truth with all those around me. In Your holy and powerful name, I pray. Amen.



Winter Break

No Discipleship: We will resume January 8th with an introduction to our next series: The Covenants of God.