



A FINAL MESSAGE IN A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BY DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR
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God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

The first announcement of the Messiah's birth was given by the angel to some anonymous shepherds.

1. They Perceived Who Christ Was.

Luke 2:9–11, NASB95 -⁹ *And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them [the shepherds], and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.* ¹⁰ *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

John 10:11, NASB95 -¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep....¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me...."*

Psalms 23:1, NASB95 -¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

1 Peter 5:4, NASB95 -⁴ *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

John 1:29, NASB95 -²⁹ *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

2. They Pursued Christ Where He Was.

Luke 2:15–16, NASB95 -¹⁵ *When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.*

Luke 2:15b, JTT - *"Dudes, we gotta go check this out!"*

Matthew 7:7, NASB95 -⁷ *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."*

Isaiah 55:6, NASB95 -⁶ *Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.*

3. They Proclaimed Who Christ Was.

Luke 2:17–18, NASB95 -¹⁷ *When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.*¹⁸ *And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.*

"The announcement went first to the shepherds. They didn't ask God if he was sure he knew what he was doing. Had the angel gone to the theologians, they would have first consulted their commentaries. Had he gone to the elite, they would have looked around to see if anyone was watching. Had he gone to the successful, they would have first looked at their calendars. Had he gone to the academicians, they would have thought and probably come to the conclusion they knew a *better way*. (Imagine, the creation thinking it knows more than the Creator.) So, he went to the shepherds. Men who didn't have a reputation to protect or an ax to grind or a ladder to climb. Men who didn't know enough to tell God that angels don't sing to sheep and that messiahs aren't found wrapped in rags and sleeping in a feed trough."
- Dr. Max Lucado

4. They Praised Christ for Who He Was.

Luke 2:19–20, NASB95 -¹⁹ *But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.* ²⁰ *The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

We need to do today, just what the shepherds did, of old!