

December 27, 2020

CHRISTMAS

— *It's Not Hallmark* —

"JESUS' FAVORITES / LEARNING FROM THE SHEPHERDS"

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LUKE 2:8-20

CORE STATEMENT: We don't know a lot about the Christmas shepherds individually, but just their presence in the Christmas story tells us a ton about God and how He looks at each of us.

I. THE CHRISTMAS STORY

INSIGHT: It is a significant biblical teaching point that the shepherds learned of the nativity before anyone else.

II. SHEPHERDS

INSIGHT: People who worked as shepherds in Jesus' day were looked down on.

INSIGHT: If you were a Jewish male and you were a shepherd, it meant you were a life-failure.

INSIGHT: Shepherds would never have been considered as someone with any standing before God.

3 categories of people Jesus favors this Christmas:

1. The poor

TRUTH: Poverty isn't a sign that God has forsaken you, or that your life is second class.

TRUTH: Jesus taught that the abundant life isn't houses, land, riches, cars or success, but knowing God (Psalm 37:25).

2. Jesus came for those with messy lives.

INSIGHT: Shepherds were people, on the whole, whose lives had gone off the rails.

TRUTH: The fact that Jesus is wonderful counselor shows you that He came for people with problems.

3. Jesus came for the forgotten.

INSIGHT: The angels coming that Christmas night was God saying: I see you (Ps. 139:17-18).

INVITATION: The Christian faith isn't a program but a Person; it's not a religion, but a relationship.