**An Unexpected Invitation**

Luke 2:8-21

**Luke 2:8 (ESV)**And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**Luke 2:9 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 2:10 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 2:11 (ESV)**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Luke 2:12 (ESV)**And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Luke 2:13 (ESV)**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**Luke 2:14 (ESV)**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

**Luke 2:15 (ESV)**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.”

**Luke 2:16 (ESV)**And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.

**Luke 2:17 (ESV)**And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child.

**Luke 2:18 (ESV)**And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

**Luke 2:19 (ESV)**But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

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

**Luke 2:21 (ESV)**And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

**Christmas is an unexpected invitation …**

1. **An Invitation that Comes from Heaven**

**Luke 2:9 (ESV)**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.

1. **An Invitation that Extends to Everyone**

**Luke 2:10 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 2:11 (ESV)**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)**The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1. **An Invitation that Promises Peace**

**Luke 2:13 (ESV)**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**Luke 2:14 (ESV)**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

1. **An Invitation that Demands a Response**

**Luke 2:15 (ESV)**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.”

**Luke 2:16 (ESV)**And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.

**Acts 16:30 (ESV)**Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

**Acts 16:31 (ESV)**And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

1. **An Invitation that Must Be Shared**

**Luke 2:17 (ESV)**And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child.

**Acts 4:18 (ESV)**So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 4:19 (ESV)**But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,

**Acts 4:20 (ESV)**for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

1. **An Invitation that Brings Salvation**

**Luke 2:21 (ESV)**And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

**Acts 4:11 (ESV)**This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

**Acts 4:12 (ESV)**And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.