

“Christmas Faces Of Faith: The Shepherds”

Luke 2:8-20

INTRO: How many times have we read or heard the dramatic story of the angelic announcement to the shepherds on the dark, lonely hills outside the little village of Bethlehem, just 5 miles south of Jerusalem? Those same hills which were once owned by Boaz and once trod upon by a shepherd named David, now were the sight of the unveiling of the most important news of all history: the arrival of the Messiah. It is also the story of the great faith of a group of unknown shepherds.

I. THE STIMULATING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THEIR FAITH vv.8-14

1. The Context For The Announcement vv. 8-9
2. The Content Of The Announcement vv. 10-12
3. The Concert After The Announcement vv. 13-14

II. THE SURPRISING ACTION BY THEIR FAITH vv. 15-16

1. Their Submission v. 15
2. Their Speed v. 16a
3. Their Search v. 16b

III. THE SOUL-WINNING ADORATION OF THEIR FAITH vv. 17-20

1. The Witness vv. 17-19
 - (1) About Which Men & Women Wonder
 - (2) About Which Mary Ponders
2. The Worship v. 20

CONCL: What a tremendous example these shepherds are to us. When they heard God’s revelation, so dramatically delivered by the angels, they believed it and obeyed it—IMMEDIATELY. Then, after having truly seen the glory of the Lord and the reliability of His Word, they, in faith, proclaimed the news to everyone! Have you seen His glory and believed His Word? Obey it! Proclaim it!!

“Christmas Faces Of Faith: The Magi”

Matthew 2:1-12

INTRO: Shrouded in mystery, the magi from the east arrive in Jerusalem seeking out the One, the King of the Jews. Who were they? From where did they come? How many were there? What were their names? What stimulated them to come? We simply do not know, and sadly often speculate to our detriment. Such speculation may cause us to miss the spectacular faith evidenced in their coming. Enduring all of the hardships, the dangers, and the time of such a trip, just to bow for a few moments before a baby—what incredible faith!!

I. FAITH IN THEIR FOLLOWING v. 1

1. Embarking
2. Enduring

II. FAITH IN THEIR FINDING vv. 3-10

1. Opening The Scriptures
2. Obeying The Star

III. FAITH IN THEIR FALLING DOWN v. 11

1. Giving Their Worship
2. Giving Their Wealth

IV. FAITH IN THEIR FLEEING v. 12

1. Responding
2. Risking

CONCL: What a testimony these unnamed sages from the east are to us! Nothing can deter, nor should deter, genuine faith. Real faith endures. Real faith pushes through the difficulties. Real faith keeps focused on the goal—the worship and service of the King of kings and Lord of lords. May we wisely emulate them!