

Title: Blessed Invitation

Text: Luke 2:8-21

Target: The invitation of God is a message of inclusion towards the least and last, all the while causing every person to feel first and foremost. The shepherds are the proof of this statement!

1. **The Appointment with the Shepherds:**

- a. **Reputation of Shepherds:** *“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”* (Vs. 8)
- b. **Revelation to the Shepherds:** *“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.”* (Vs. 9)

2. **The Astonishment of the Shepherds:**

- a. **Respect by the Shepherds:** *“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”* (Vs. 10)
- b. **Redemption for the Shepherds:** *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* (Vs. 11)

3. **The Amazement of the Shepherds:**

- a. **Radiance around the Shepherds:** *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God”* (Vs. 13)
- b. **Rejoicing with the Shepherds:** *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* (Vs. 14)

4. **The Adjustment of the Shepherds.**

- a. **Readiness in the Shepherds:** *“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste...”* (Vs. 15-16)
- b. **Realization through the Shepherds:** *“And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.”* (Vs. 17)

5. **The Acknowledgement of the Shepherds:**

- a. **Reception towards the Shepherds:** *“And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”* (Vs. 18-19)
- b. **Return of the Shepherds:** *“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it has been told them.”* (Vs. 20)

Take Away: The gift that the shepherds gave Jesus is the very gift we are called to give Jesus, which is _____!