

**Title:** You're Welcome

**Text:** Luke 2:8-10

**Target:** The place where God comes to encounter you will always be an experience customized for you.

- I. **The Inclusion of the Shepherds:** *"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."* (Vs. 8)
  - A. **The Region of the Shepherds:** *"same region"*
  - B. **The Reputation of the Shepherds:** *"shepherds out in the field"*
  - C. **The Responsibility of the Shepherds:** *"keeping watch over their flock by night"*
  
- II. **The Interruption of 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)
  - A. **The Messenger to the Shepherds:** *"angel of the Lord appeared to them"*
  - B. **The Ministry to the Shepherds:** *"the glory of the Lord shone around them"*
  - C. **The Mark on the Shepherds:** *"they were filled with great fear"*
  
- III. **The Invitation to 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 the people."* (Vs. 10)
  - A. **The Announcement to the Shepherds:** *"the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you"*
  - B. **The Affirmation of the Shepherds:** *"good news of great joy"*
  - C. **The Acceptance of the Shepherds:** *"that will be for all the people"*

**Takeaway:** The shepherds stand in our place as the proof that God makes space for you at the inn.

**Sermon Discussion Questions:** Last week we were reminded by Pastor Marquise that as followers of Jesus, our lives will be interrupted by God at some point. This can certainly be said for the shepherds. Their lives were divinely interrupted and forever changed. This week we carry interruption forward and surround it with inclusion and invitation. Inclusion is a buzzword in our society. However, it is often misused as a weapon rather than an invitation. Invitation is a word we often associate with being a part of a select group (such as "by invitation only"). Here in Luke 2 we see an interruption that is followed by an invitation that includes everyone.

Like the shepherds, have you ever felt left out or isolated, perhaps made to feel less than those around you?

Have you ever been left off of the invitation list for a party, membership, or gathering? How did it make you feel?

Have you ever "made the cut" or been invited to be a part of a membership only club? How did this make you feel?

The shepherds' invitation demonstrates that Jesus came for all, even the lowliest and least honored. His invitation is for you and me, too. Have you accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him? If not, today is a great day to put your faith and trust in Jesus.

If you aren't doing so already, would you consider starting an advent devotional during this Christmas season? Here are a few recommendations, but this is certainly not an exhaustive list. There are many great advent devotionals from which to choose.

In the Manger: 25 Inspirational Selections for Advent by Max Lucado

Come, Let Us Adore Him by Paul David Tripp

Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas by Ann Voskamp

Family Advent Devotional: Celebrate Christ Together by Matt and Lauren Chandler

Good News of Great Joy by John Piper free online [here](#)