

Title: Home for Christmas

Text: Luke 2:13-20

Target: The journey toward Christmas has taken a minute to get here, but it unwraps in seconds. "Home for Christmas" is making the choice not just to do Christmas, but be Christmas.

- I. **The Host of Heaven magnifies Jesus:** *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,"* (Vs. 13)
 - A. **Gives The Highest Praise:** *"Glory to God in the highest"* (Vs. 14a)
 - B. **Brings the Deepest Peace:** *"On earth peace among those with whom he is pleased-goodwill among men"* (Vs. 14b)

- II. **A Soul that's Saved pursues Jesus:** *"When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem..."* (Vs. 15a)
 - A. **Their Hearts were Convinced:** *"...and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."* (Vs. 15b)
 - B. **Their Hearts were Consumed:** *"And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger."* (Vs. 16)
 - C. **Their Hearts were Changed:** *"And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child."* (Vs. 17)

- III. **The Wonderer is always Welcome around Jesus:** *"And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them."* (Vs. 18)

- IV. **A Heart of Humility embraces Jesus:** *"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."* (Vs. 19)
 - A. **Overjoyed by God's Goodness:** *"treasured"*- to keep closely together, never to forget.
 - B. **Overjoyed by God's Grace:** *"pondering"* - to bring together or to converse.

- V. **The Life that's changed shares Jesus:** *"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."* (Vs. 20)
 - A. **Our Worship is the Fuel:** *"glorifying and praising"*
 - B. **Our Testimony is the Fire:** *"as it had been told them"*

Takeaway: Leave something out from your Christmas decorations until next Christmas as a reminder to never forget the importance of Christmas, not just being in your home, but also in your heart.

Sermon Discussion Questions:

Our takeaway statement offers some of us an opportunity to start a new tradition. Others may already do something similar like leaving a nativity out all year long. While this is a great idea, if we fail to pause when we see the ornament, nativity, or item and allow ourselves to be reminded we will miss the point. Take a look at your decorations and see if there is something you could leave out as a reminder of God's promises kept, His goodness, and His grace. Then, place that object someplace that you will see it on a regular basis. Ask God to help remind you everytime you see this item of the wonder of Christmas. Allow your praise to rise to Him and your testimony to go out to all you encounter.

Let's look back on our Christmas sermon series, let's ask ourselves a few questions from each weekend:

From "*The Dangers of a Christ-less Christmas*" with Pastor Marquise; Did you find objects of Christmas that you could use to be reminded of the reason for the season? (lights, gifts, trees, etc.) What were they? How could you use these items throughout the year as motivators to give highest praise to our Lord and King?

From "*You're Welcome*" with Pastor Ed; Were you able to relate with the shepherds this Christmas season? Have you been motivated to help "include" others in this glorious gift of Christmas?

From this past week of "*Giftmas or Christmas*," Have you opened/recieved the greatest gift ever given? Have you joyfully and excitedly shared what you recieved with others?

Finally, did you start, maybe for the first time, and advent devotional? How did The LORD reveal Himself to you during your study? To what new facets of Christmas were your eyes opened? Maybe your were gently reminded of something lost in the commercialization of Christmas. How did God speak to you?

Like Mary, make sure you take time to ponder and treasure all of these things in your heart. And like the shepherds, make sure you make much of all you have seen and heard this Christmas season.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas!