

# Scripture Reading

## Luke 2:1-21

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 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. 10 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

15 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."

16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 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.

# Questions

1. Describe a time when you felt unwelcome. What was the scenario and how did it make you feel?
2. What would a modern-day shepherd be like? Why do you think that type of person is a "shepherd-like" person?
3. Are you welcoming to the "Shepherds" of our society? How can you grow in your love and grace for people who are different than you?
4. Jesus, from the beginning, extended arms to the righteous as well as to the unrighteous. As we continue His work on the earth, how can we do the same in our modern world?
5. How is it that the Unwelcome, the Shepherds of our world, seem to embrace more readily the Messiah, when the righteous tend to question and condemn him?
6. Pray about someone in your life who is unwelcome by the world but should be welcomed by you.

# Advent ... waiting ... The Unwelcome 12/19/21

*"In the first century, Shepherds were considered the lowest of the low. If they were Jewish, they were Sabbath breaking, unlawful, untrustworthy, swine, which is saying a lot about what the Jewish community thought of them. Even in His birth, Jesus reaches out to those in the margins and welcomes them into the family. Instead of requiring humanity to become holy to enter into His presence, He enters into the presence of corrupted humanity and begins to make clean what was unclean. He is still doing this today. How do we wait as those unworthy, but incredibly loved? What does the Lord promise to those who patiently wait on the Lord? Join us this week as we engage this topic as we continue our Advent series. Waiting..."*