

2011 Christmas Series #5 (9:30am)

12-25-11

Peace In The Stable!

Victor on Piano

Open w/Video: *Social Network Christmas*.

Worship: *Richy*

Drama: *Skye Sheer* (Anna)

I. **Announce:**

A. **Slide #1** TY, Skye Sheer, Drama: *"A light to reveal You to the nations!"*

1. I pray this morning the Lord shines that light upon you. **The light of understanding.**

B. **Announce:** office closed this week. - Next Sun (New Years day) all 3 morn services.

C. **Slide #2 Xmas Catalog Slide** (we will received till Dec.31)

D. **Slide #3 Xmas Catalog Results: \$28,797**

1. **#4** Colina de Luz, Mexico Orphanage - 1 student, a yr & ½ of college tuition.

2. **#5** 5 Loaves Feeding Ministry - Feed 21 kids for 6 months.

3. **#6** Human Trafficking **Nepal/India** border surveillance- 3 full time workers for 2 months

4. **#7** Haiti Endowment Fund, Haiti - 4 classroom makeovers.

5. **#8** Mercy Projects, Ukraine - 58 Xmas gifts for children.

6. **#9** FBR - 41 Head Lamps for Free Burma Rangers.

7. **#10** Operation SafeHouse Riv. - 29 human trafficking survivors in Riv. helped w/ urgent needed services.

8. **#11** ICA - 1 plane ticket to US for an adoptable International exchange child.

9. **#12** Kosovo - Sponsorship for 12.5 Coaches w/needed supplies. Outfitting 2.5 children soccer Teams w/uniforms. 1 full League sponsorship.

10. **#13** Global Recording Network - 25 minutes of a gospel recording in a needed language.

11. **#14** Water4abillion - 2.5 wells in India.

12. **#15** Generate Hope S.D. - providing 18 heaters in 18 rooms for girls rescued from the sex trade.

13. **#16** 5 Alive Burma - Food & essential survival items to keep 140 people alive for a month in Burma.

14. **#17** Truth & Hope Bulgaria - 21 books & CD for Bulgarian teens. & 36 Bulgarian teens to attend a purity conference.

15. **#18** L.E. Pregnancy Center - 20 newborn Layettees; 11 cases of diapers; 6.5 cribs; 6 strollers.

16. #19 Baileys P.I. - 3 computer for their ministry to Muslims; and Educating 6 Bajao children for remainder of school yr.

17. #20 Machaca, Belize - \$771 towards a dorm building. And 133 citrus trees; 20 turkeys; 11 pigs; 1.5 cows; 2.25 donkeys; and...

18. #21 *a partridge in a pear tree!*

E. Slide#22 Video: Christmas Spirit The Right Way.

F. Slide#23 - Lk.2:15-20

II. INTRO:

A. The Shepherds Reputation! (vs.8)

1. Shepherds were distrusted in Jesus' day, as being a wild bunch. Bible Almanac

B. They were a **despised class** of people in the 1st cent.

1. They were considered unreliable & therefore were not even allowed to give testimony in the law courts. James Boice

C. The Egyptians despised them. "Every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians." Gen.46:34

1. Joseph wouldn't even eat w/his brothers.

D. Others described them as, "a **meditative** class of men, accustomed to the **sweet silence of nature**, apart from the bustle & stir of cities, invited to quiet communion w/their own hearts."

E. **Shepherds** were the **1st profession** mentioned in the bible, **Abel was a keeper of sheep**. Gen.4:2

1. And this 1st shepherd was the 1st **blood sacrifice!**

F. Christ, was later called *the Good Shepherd*, who leaves the 99 to find the 1.

1. Here, we have these shepherds leaving their sheep to locate **this One Lamb!**
(i.e. *The Lamb of God*)

2. Is there any other profession that would be more excited about a Lamb being born?

G. And so, the 1st Tidings of Great Joy was brought to *Shaggy Shepherds!*

H. Title: Peace In The Stable!

I. Outline: *Go & See; Go & Tell; Go & Worship.*

J. Slide#24 Reading: Lk.2:15-20 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

III. Slide#25 **GO AND SEE!** (15,16)

- A. (16) **Let us now go!** – how simple a faith!
1. The Angels leave, & the Shepherds seem to just stand there looking at each other. (Phillips Brooks)
 2. **They don't sing a song like Mary. They don't need a star. They don't go & try to find Herod. They don't go shopping for gifts. They just say to each other...let us now go!**
 - a) They do go & they do find. *Finding Jesus is that easy!*
- B. (16) **They came with haste & found them** - Isn't it funny that **the wise men** were directed by God, **but** then got lost & had to stop and ask for directions in Jerusalem (Mt.2:1,2)
1. But, the Shepherds **never lost their way!!!**
 2. It often happens while **shepherds** find Christ, **wise men** often miss him!
 - a) So, **Faith** led their steps to Bethlehem; to the stable; to the manger!
- C. **Have you seen Him?** Jn.9:39...**I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see.**

IV. Slide#26 **GO AND TELL!** (17,18)

- A. The Shepherds **weren't** only the 1st to **hear**, **but** the 1st to **tell!**
1. I guess they were told to...***“Go, tell it on the mountain - over the hills & well, everywhere! – Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is Born!”***
 2. Like Peter & John said in Acts 4:20 **We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.**
- B. Faith is **personal**, **but** not *private*.
1. Jesus has become real to you **so** you will make him visible to others.
 2. Not talk and condemn, **but** Go & Tell; Show and Tell.
 3. We are to make heaven visible on earth.
- C. A little girl once remarked, **“Some people couldn't hear God's *inside* whisper, so He sent Jesus to *tell them out loud!*”**
1. Well, these shepherds sure **heard** it, **saw** it, & **told** others about it.

V. Slide#27 **GO AND WORSHIP!** (19,20)

- A. They returned to daily life – Oh, the glory of the common place!
1. **What was it like going to back to work after that?**
 2. I wonder if any shepherds **quit the week before** because they were bored with their career?
 3. Did they learn that heaven is always near the **dutiful?**

4. What was it like going to back to work? (Don't miss it...that's where God met them...
At Work! - *Keeping watch over their flock at night!*)

B. Slide#28 May we: Go & See; Go & Tell; & Go & Worship! AutoFade #27

C. End Story: In December 1903, after many attempts, **the Wright brothers** were successful in getting their “flying machine” off the ground. Thrilled, they telegraphed this message to their sister Katherine: *“We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas.”*
Katherine hurried to the editor of the local newspaper and showed him the message. He glanced at it and said, *“How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas!”* He totally missed the big news - man had flown! **Don't miss the Big News!**

D. After last song: (Kel got email this morn) Let's not **do** Christmas today. May we **BE** Christmas!

1. Be **Love**. Be **Patient**. Be **Kind**. Be **Givers**, like Jesus.

2. Give **Forgiveness**. Give **Grace**. Embody **the spirit of Christ**.

3. Be Christmas, by being filled with **Peace** and **Joy!**

a) When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then **the work of Christmas begins:**
to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins. *Howard Thurman*