

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, January 7/8, 2017 Ray Davis

Luke 2:13-20 “Listening to God”

Hearing and listening, are not the same thing. You can hear someone without actually listening to them. While hearing but not listening is bad for marriage, it is absolutely destructive in our relationship with God. Listening to God is a critical part to our personal relationship with God!

How God Speaks (The Messenger):

- The shepherds got angels (“a multitude of heavenly hosts” (vv13-14) but everyone else got a shepherd (vv17-18). (1Kings19:11-12; Acts 1:3-8)
- Beware of missing the message because of the flaws in the messenger. There will always be flaws in the messenger. (Numbers 22; Not an excuse for lowering leadership standards—1Tim3; Titus1; 1Pet5)
- God speaks to us not mainly through good times but bad times. (Acts 26:14; Ps119:67, 71)
- God speaks primarily through the Bible. (Rom10:17; 2Tim3:16-17)

What is God Speaking (The Message):

V14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

- We think God is saying: “If you try really hard and are a good person I’ll give you the good life you want.”
- But God is saying: “The greatest revelation of my glory is that you can have peace with me by my grace through the work of my Son.” (Rom5:1; Eph2:8-9)
- To the degree you realize you have peace with God by grace through faith in Christ, is to the degree you will have the peace of God to face anything in life with great joy. (Luke2:10; Phil4:6-7)

How We Must Listen (The Listener):

Vv18-20 ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- You are what you love but you might not love what you think. The heart is the core of what we put our ultimate hope, trust and love in. (v18; Matt6:21)
- You must give yourself to God’s Word intellectually (“pondering”) and experientially (“treasuring”). (V19; James 1:22-25; Matt7:24-27)
- If you treasure the Word of the Lord you will eventually see by faith the Lord of the Word and it will fill you with wonder, love and praise. (V20; Matt13:44)

Growing Notes

- 1)** The best thing about being a Christian is having a personal relationship with God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ! How important is mutual listening in our relationship with God? Explain. How could learning how to listen to God make a world of difference in your life in 2017 (James 1:22-25)?
- 2)** Read Luke 2:13-20. What stands out to you? How many angels were there and what were they doing and saying (vv13-14)? What was the shepherd’s response (vv15-17)? Compare & contrast the crowd’s response (v18), to Mary’s response (v19), to the shepherd’s response (v20)?
- 3)** Review the points under “How God Speaks (The Messenger)”. Which one(s) do you find most helpful? Most convicting? Review the points under “What Is God Speaking (The Message)”. How do our expectations of what we think God is saying affect our ability to listen to Him? Why do you think peace with God will produce the peace of God in our hearts and peace with others in our lives?
- 4)** Review the points under “How We Must Listen (The Listener)”. What does it mean that you are what you love but you might not love what you think? How do you know what you love? To be a better listener we must give ourselves to God’s Word in what two ways? What will happen when we begin to treasure God’s Word? What is God speaking to you through this study? Make it your prayer.