

INTRODUCTION

- * This is the seventh message in our series on the book of Luke. Up until this point, we have been considering what many would consider preliminary information, but that which Luke determined to be integral to the redemptive purpose of Christ. The ministry of John - preparing the way of YHWH - was one of the chief validations of the Messianic claim of Jesus of the Nazareth (cf. Matthew 21:23-27)
- * Last week, we considered the numerous prophecies declaring how Christ would come - born of a virgin; born of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David; born in Bethlehem; taken to Egypt; and raised in Nazareth. We considered how He would be preceded by a forerunner and that He would proclaim liberty to captives and heal the blind. We considered as well how it was prophesied that He would be crucified - that His hands and feet would be pierced, that His side would be pierced and that His bones would not be broken. We saw that it was prophesied that He would be betrayed by a friend and that it would be for 30 pieces of silver!
- * Today, we consider the primary event of His birth ... the angelic announcement of His birth to a group of shepherds who were watching their sheep in the fields on the outskirts of Bethlehem. In this great moment, God reveals again His desire to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things on behalf of His kingdom.

INSTRUCTION**I. THEY R_____ THE WORD OF GOD (v. 8-14)****A. The Proclamation of the Angel (v. 9-12)**

1. IT WAS P_____
2. IT WAS P_____

B. The Proclamation of the Angels (v. 13-14)

1. THE P_____ TO GOD
2. THE P_____ TO MAN

II. THEY O_____ THE WORD OF GOD (v. 15-16)**A. They D_____ (v. 15)****B. They W_____ (v. 15)****C. They R_____ (v. 16)****III. THEY S_____ THE WORD OF GOD (v. 17-18)****A. The M_____ of the Shepherds (v. 17)**

1. THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH GOD
2. THEY WANTED TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

B. The R_____ of the Hearers (v. 18)**IV. THEY W_____ GOD (v. 19-20)****A. Mary Pondered the Wonders of YHWH (v. 19)****B. The Shepherds Praised YHWH for His Doings (v. 20)****INTROSPECTION**

- * What is your response to the message of God?
- * How often do you share with others what God had shared with You?
- * Does reading/hearing God's Word lead you to worship?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we become more "excited" about God message of redemption and reconciliation, such that it motivates us to share it with others?