

WITNESS: THE LAMB PROVIDED

Luke 2:1-20

Intro: We have been watching as God's plan to send His Lamb into the world has unfolded.

When man fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, God made a promise that a Redeemer would one day come.

- This Redeemer would come as the Savior of sinners.
- All through the Old Testament, God worked to bring this event to pass.

Our text tells us about the night ***the father's promise was fulfilled***.

As we look in on the events of that special night 2,000 years ago, we can learn something about ***how God provided His Lamb***.

- I want to tell you ***how and why God sent His Son*** Jesus into this world...
- And ***what His birth*** can and does mean for you.

Allow me to share three aspects of the Lamb's provision with you!!!

I. v1-7 THE PLACE INVOLVED IN THE LAMB'S PROVISION

A. v4 **The Planning Of That Place** – The fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem was no accident.

- ***It was predicted years before it came to pass!!!***

B. v1-6 **The Providence Of That Place** – While it should not surprise us that Jesus was born where the Bible says He would be,

- the events surrounding His arrival there are amazing.

God worked out all the details necessary ***so that Jesus might be born where the prophets said that He would be!***

By the way, if He can do that, then surely He can take care of our little needs!

C. v. 7 **The Poverty Of That Place** – We are told that the Savior’s entrance into this world **was anything but glorious.**

- When the young couple **arrived in Bethlehem,**
- They discovered that there was **no place for them to stay.**
- They **found refuge in a stall** used to house animals.
- When **Mary** delivered Jesus, she **placed the Baby in a feed trough.**

***You and I cannot even begin to comprehend **the enormity of the truth contained here.**

- Imagine, God Himself came into this world.
- The same God Who made the universe.
- But, **He was not** born into the lap of luxury.
- He was **born into the poverty.**

He humbled Himself, and entered into this world in the **“form of a servant,”**

- His humble birth signified **the kind of life Jesus would live** all the time He was here on this earth.
- The God Who made everything and Who could have had anything, **chose to live a life of poverty.**

Why????????

There is just one answer: **because He loves us!**

2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though **he was rich,** yet for your sake **he became poor,** **so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

- **He did it so that He might** understand our burdens,
- **He did it so that He might** enter into our suffering,
- Die in our place and Lift us out of **our circumstances**

Thank God for the poverty of that place!

D. v. 7 **The Pictures Of That Place** – We are told that Mary took her baby and wrapped Him in “*swaddling clothes.*”

- Those strips of cloth were the same kind used to wrap dead bodies and prepare them for the burial.
- ***Even in His birth, there is a picture of His death.***

There are **no accidents and coincidences** along life’s way!

E. v7 **The Promise Of That Place** – I am glad that Jesus was born in a manger and **not a palace.**

- I am glad that ***He was born into humble surroundings.***

Why?????????

Because He was born in poverty and in humble surroundings,

******He is more approachable*** to the common man.

- We have less trouble coming to a Lord **Who has walked** some of the same hard paths we walk.

The second aspect of the lamb’s provision I would like to share this morning....

II. v8, 15-19 THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE LAMB’S PROVISION

The birth of the Savior did not happen in a vacuum. While the people in Bethlehem were ignorant of the wonderful events happening in their town, **God revealed the good news to some poor, humble shepherds** who were outside the town on the Judean hillsides.

A. v. 8 **Their Occupation** – The Bible simply calls them “*shepherds.*” These were men who were responsible for watching over flocks of sheep.

- The work was **dirty and hard.**
- As a result, **these men were considered the lowest of the low.**
- It was these men **who received the message of peace** from the angel of the Lord.

Men may not care about you. People may look down on you in disgust ***because of who you are*** or because of ***what you have done in life***.

- But, there is a ***God in Heaven Who loves you*** in spite of everything.
- There is a ***God Who desires to save you***, if you will only come to Him!

I sure am glad today that the Lord did not hold my past against me!!!

- B. v15-16 ***Their Obedience*** – As soon as these men ***hear the news of the Savior's birth***, ***they leave their sheep on the hillsides and run*** into the town of Bethlehem ***to find the Lord Jesus***.

When they arrive, they find everything to be just as the angels had said.

What a picture of grace!

Regardless of a person's past or of ***how low they have fallen in life***, ***there is still hope in Jesus for them***.

- ***The Lord turns none away, but invites all*** who will come to meet Him and be saved by the grace of God!
- If you will come to Jesus, ***He will save your soul!***

Don't let some sin, or some situation stand between you and Heaven.

- C. v17-19 ***Their Obligation*** – As soon as they realize ***the magnitude of the things they have experienced***, ***they begin to share the news with all*** they meet.
- ***They tell everyone*** about the Baby in the manger Who is Christ the Lord.
 - People who hear them ***are astonished to hear shepherds talking about such spiritual matters***.

One of the blessings of ***the Gospel of grace is*** that ***it is too good to keep quiet about***.

- ***As soon as you experience its power, you want others to experience it also***. We have a Savior and ***we have a message worth sharing***.

The third aspect of the Lamb's provision I would like to share this morning...

III. v9-14; 20 THE PRAISE INVOLVED IN THE LAMB'S PROVISION

A. v9-14 **There Was Heavenly Praise** – As those shepherds go about the business of another boring night with their flocks, something astonishing takes place. **There is the appearance of a heavenly entourage, bearing the good news that heaven has invaded earth**, and that nothing would ever be the same again.

1. v9 **The Heavenly Appearance** – Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appears above those shepherds.

- The shepherds are instantly terrified by their heavenly visitor.

2. v10-12 **The Heavenly Announcement** – The angel does not leave them in fear for long.

- He tells them that a Savior has been born.
- He tells them that the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One, has arrived.
- He tells them that the Lord has been born in Bethlehem!

What an announcement!!!!

Salvation will be accomplished, just as God had promised it would!

- And the announcement was made to those humble shepherds
- You will notice that the angel **made the message personal** to the shepherds, **“unto you is born,” v11**.

Thank God the message is a personal one!!!

- It was given to those shepherds, but **it was made available to all**,
- God will take the routine and ordinary and **transform it into a supernatural event in your life**.

3. v13-14 **The Heavenly Anthem** – As soon as this angel finishes delivering Heaven's message to the shepherds,

- He is joined by a **great multitude of angels who praise God**
- **Declare the truth** that **the message is indeed for all men!**

B. v20 **There Was Human Praise** – After the shepherds hear the message and meet the Master, they return to their flocks rejoicing as they go.

But, notice the difference between **their praise** and **the praise of the angels**.

- The angels praise the Lord for **what He has done for others**, v. 11.
- The shepherds praise the Lord for **what He has done for them**, v. 20!

There is a difference...

1. **The Praise Of Convinced Hearts** – When they heard the message;

- when they met Him for themselves,
- They could praise Him from a heart that has been convinced of the truth!

I will never forget the day when I met Him for myself!!!

When I did,

- I could praise Him because I knew it was real!
- I knew **He lived!**
- I knew **He was my Redeemer!**
- I could praise Him **because He had become more than a story;**
- He had become my Savior!

Is that your testimony? It needs to be!

2. **The Praise Of Changed Hearts** – It must have been something to **watch a group of raw, rough shepherds** leave that town rejoicing and praising the name of the Lord.

- The last time they came through Bethlehem they had been cursing and acting like the sinners they were.
- **Now, they are new men** and they are excited about it!
- They can't keep their praises in
- They return to their flocks while their shouts fill the night air!

That is what meeting Jesus will do for you!!!

- He may not make you shout, at least in this life,
- But He will change you

2 Cor. 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **The old has gone, the new is here!**

When He comes in, He changes everything!

- And there will be **some excitement** about it.
- There will be **some joy**.

When He saves your souls, He changes you and fills you with **“joy unspeakable and full of glory,”**

1 Pet. 1:8 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him **and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,**

Surely, some of that will leak out from time to time!

- When Jesus **takes you, Saves you** and **changes you,**
- **You will want to praise Him** for **Who He is** and **what He has done in your life!**

Conc: Wouldn't you agree with me that the **Christmas story is a special story?**

- **God would send His darling Son Jesus into this world to die** for sinners.
- That He would love us to that level is amazing...

It is nothing more than a story **until you experience the power** of the Lamb of God in a personal way.

You have missed the real meaning altogether if you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior.

Until you have received the Lamb of God as your personal Savior and until you know the power of His salvation, you will never really understand Christmas.

- Are you in a **personal relationship with Jesus** today?
- Will you embrace **Heaven's Lamb as the Savior** of your soul?
- **The Lamb was provided for you,** but He will do you no good unless you come to Him.

Christ Born of Mary - Luke 2:1-20 - NKJV

2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into 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 wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Glory in the Highest - ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!"

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.

