




1 **Read Luke 1:1-3 and Luke 2:1-5.** What are some clues that the historian Luke is trying to be painfully accurate with his political and historical facts?

 *Why do you think he mentions Roman emperors and governors, people of power?*


 *Consider the political drama of 2020. How would you apply those thoughts to your understanding of the providence of God in today's political climate?*

2 **In Luke 2:10, the angel talks about “good news of great joy for all people.”** Look carefully at the three ways Jesus is described in verse 11. What are they?

 *What would each of these have meant for poor Jewish shepherds under Roman occupation in the first century?*

 *Take time to ponder what each description means to us today. Why is this announcement by the angel good news for you?*

3 **Shepherds were poor, lower-class people in their society, despised by religious Jews because their work kept them away from many religious activities.**

 *Notice the contrast between the majestic titles for Jesus of Luke 2:10 and the poor situation into which he was born in Luke 2:6-7. Why do you think Luke emphasizes this contrast?*

 *Looking at Luke 2:8-14, why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first ones to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus?*

4 What is the shepherds' first act after seeing and experiencing Jesus (Luke 2:17)?

🔊 Think back to the time when you experienced good news in your life. Did you want to tell others about the good thing?

💬 If we truly experience Jesus in our lives, and thus become "witnesses" to his truth as the shepherds were, how might we respond?

♥ Who should you consider sharing the "Good News" with this Christmas season?

5 **Put yourself into the passage for a moment.** What feelings do you think Mary experienced in this passage? What feelings did the shepherds experience? Note that the shepherds left glorifying and praising God (Luke 2:20). Is there anything in your life or experience right now for which you can praise God? Is there anything you are thankful for? Share the character trait of God that God has made known to you this year. Consider people who have helped you spiritually and thank God for them. As we consider the JOY of Advent, what are things that make you rejoice in God your Savior?

PRAYER REQUESTS

6 **Prayer Points**

- > Thank you, Father God, for being the King of the Universe. I praise you for providentially orchestrating the affairs of men to accomplish your plans. I am thankful that I can trust that your ways are not threatened or thwarted by the schemes of men. Please help me to understand and do your will.
- > Thank you for the joy that comes from the Good News of the Gospel. Help me to worship like the Angels and Shepherds in our text. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."
- > Give me the grace to always be amazed by the wonders of Christ. Help me to be like Mary and treasure the fulfillment of your promises in my heart. Please help me to be like the shepherds and glorify and praise you for all you have done.