



The Surprising Eye-Witnesses”  
MESSAGE NOTES  
December 13, 2009

As we continue our series we come to an interesting scene. God chose simple shepherds to be the first eye-witnesses of the Christ child. Before the wise men, before any royalty or people of influence, God invited these lowly, hillside shepherders to a part of one of the most significant events in history. Why? And what can we learn from this surprise that is given to us in the Christmas story?

**I. SURPRISE #1: The Status of the Shepherds**

A. Why did God choose them?

1. It showed God's \_\_\_\_\_ . (Lamb of God)
2. It showed God's \_\_\_\_\_ of all people.

B. A very important spiritual principle: The Good News is for ALL people!

**II. SURPRISE #2: The Announcement by the Angels**

A. Angels play a big part in the Christmas story. Who are they?

1. They are not people who have \_\_\_\_\_ and gone to heaven.
2. They are usually \_\_\_\_\_.

B. What the Angel said was surprising.

**III. SURPRISE #3: The Reaction of the Eyewitnesses**

A. The shepherd's reaction was surprising.

B. They did two things you would expect and one you wouldn't?

1. They examined the evidence \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ their discovery.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. TRUTH FOR THE TAKING:**

Most often finding God is not an \_\_\_\_\_ but is a matter of earnestly seeking Him.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT

### Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

<sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men  
on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, the New International Version*

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