

Christ Has Come—Great Gladness—Luke 2:15-21

- **Intro**
 - My mom and sister are brunettes and I always dated brunettes. I just figured I would end up marrying a brunette. My sister reminds me frequently about the night I came home from my first date with Taylor, like a silly girl all giddy about the amazing BLONDE I had met.
 - The emotion of this text is gladness—the same kind of restless excitement and anticipation that you would get after a first date, landing a new job or the birth of a child.
 - Today—may we who are in Christ go back to the first days, the first affections, the overcome sense of gladness and anticipation that was there the day Christ was born in our hearts!
- **SPEAK of the Message of the Savior (v.17)**
 - **FUNDAMENTALLY**—the gospel is **NEWS** to be shared!!
 - Typically, a family like Joseph and Mary would have just hired out a kid or a young man to go and give the announcement of the birth of their child.
 - Here, God has chosen to send a **HOST** of angels to do that heralding work.
 - These shepherds had heard and seen something so mind blowing that self-contained enjoyment was never even an option! They had seen the King, God Incarnate, and a sense of uncontrollable and joyful declaration came up!
 - Assissi—“preach the gospel and, if necessary, use words.”
 - **THIS IS FALSE!!**
 - **1 Peter 3:15**—“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”
 - A hurdle to **SPEAKING** the gospel very well may be **EXPERIENCING** the gospel:
 - These shepherds weren’t depending on empirical data nor were they waiting on some sage to come unpack all the philosophical implications—NO! THEY HAD EXPERIENCED THIS CHRIST FOR THEMSELVES and now **GLADLY** proclaimed the message they received!
 - **The beautiful truths to SPEAK:**
 - Simple—**BELIEVE AND LIVE**
 - Majestic—**IN CHRIST, GOD IS RECONILING ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF.**
- **SAVOR the Glories of the Savior (v.19)**
 - Kind of an opposite response than that of the shepherds.
 - As we deal with Jesus on a personal level there is this more **PUBLIC EXPRESSION** and then there is this **INTERNAL, SAVORING RESPONSE** where we allow the beauty and glory of Jesus to just permeate our heart and soul!
 - Just think about that piece of steak, pie, etc.—you put it in your mouth and you can’t even help it...the only thing you can do is just close your eyes and and breath hmmmm..
 - **3 Facets to Mary’s Savoring:**
 - Remembrance—“treasured up all these things”
 - Affection—“pondering them in her heart”
 - Intellect—“pondering them”
 - Like another Mary that we read about in the gospels, Mary’s response was less **PUBLISH THE NEWS ABROAD** and more **PONDER THE BEAUTIES INSIDE.**
 - **What this text is showing us is that both responses are right and needed.**
 - **The beautiful glories to savor:**
 - Angels singing...to SHEPHERDS
 - Heaven bright with glory...at MIDNIGHT
 - The setting of a stable...yet a **MULTITUDE OF ANGELS**
 - God of the universe....in a tiny BABY.

- SEE the purpose it all—THE GLORY OF GOD (v.20)
 - In our speaking and our savoring, the actions are not the end game—God's glory is. Our speaking terminates in God's glory....our savoring terminates in God's glory as we make much of him with our mouths and in our hearts!
 - V.20—“the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.”
 - The shepherds didn't just sit in dazed amazement nor did they get teleported to some celestial worship service. NO! They RETURNED TO THE FIELD but with a new song...a vibrant song...the song that comes from a changed life!
 - THE GLORY OF GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE.
 - It is not office, it is earnestness; it is not position, it is Divine Grace which will enable us to glorify God. God is most surely glorified in that cobbler's stall where the godly worker, as he plies the awl, sings of the Savior's love, yes, glorified far more than in many a cathedral where official religiousness performs its scanty duties...God is glorified by our abiding in our vocation...There is no trade which is not sanctified by the Gospel.—Spurgeon
- Conclusion:
 - Ever notice when someone is telling a story and their friend or spouse is beside them and the friend/spouse keeps trying to break in and tell part of the story but the person who started gets upset because they mess it up?
 - Why does that happen? Because there is this gladness, this joy, this excitement that comes when we are able to remember and relive what happened—when we savor that moment and then share it!
 - THIS IS THE GLADNESS AND JOY AND EXCITEMENT meant for our souls at Advent.
 - However, you may be in the room and you haven't heard and seen the Savior. There isn't an experience with Jesus that would cause you to SPEAK and SAVOR.
 - TAKE CHRIST TODAY! EXPERIENCE HIM PERSONALLY—RECEIVE GRACE AND PARDON.