# Considering the Cradle

Last Week:

The Change in Relationship:

      1. Holiness & History

      2. Immanuel – God With Us

      3. Relationship Restored

The Arrival Announcement

      - memorable occasions announced to public

            - births, weddings, openings etc

      - great news for all to hear

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*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,."*

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*'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:8-20*

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Check out the Audience:

- shepherds – not the top of society, most reliable

- men without a direct line to those important

- men who would check it out themselves

Check out the Presentation

- appearance of an angel

- Glory of God shining brightly

- supernatural and unbelievable

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The Announcement:

1. Do Not Be Afraid!

 - When the Supernatural invades the Natural - fear!

 - *1:29 - "Mary greatly troubled at his words"*

 - *2:9 - "and they were terrified"*

 - Before we understand the implications – fear

 -Do not fear what God is doing - and when he breaks into our lives to reveal himself and his work.

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2. "I Bring you good news of Great joy that will be for all the people."

- I Bring – God is doing, The Almighty is speaking

- be excited, overjoyed, thrilled - full of anticipation

- The news is good - breath the sigh of relief

- The new is for everyone - not just you!

- Relay this with joy, passion, excitement, tell everyone

*how do you speak about the Christmas season?

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3. "Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you!"

   - Savior - one who saves, one who rescues those in danger or distress, unable to help themselves

   - The promise handed down for generations – here!

4. Here is the Proof!

   - details and descriptions

   - begging to be investigated - go and see for yourself

   * ever challenge people to check out the claims of Jesus?

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5. Grand Proclamation!

-"*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.*"

- This proclamation has huge implications for mankind

- shalom - not the absence of war or conflict.  Not the removal of difficult circumstances.  It is the concept of wholeness and completeness.  Being at rest within - whole and complete - not needing or wanting anymore!

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- To Men on Whom His Favor Rests

  - Suggesting that it will not be universal in scope

  - Suggesting that God plays a part in who experiences

  - Suggesting that relationship plays a part

  * we often do not emphasize this truth in our presentation of God's gift at Christmas.  It is available to all, not experienced by all!

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## So What

1. We Celebrate God's Intervention In Our History

   a) Do Not Fear The Supernatural – wonder of incarnation

   b) The News is For All – great news, full of joy, passion

   c) A Savior – reality of sin, need for payment, God's gift

   d) Know the Proof – invite others to investigate – it's real

   e) There is a way for inner peace, wholeness, relationship to be experienced.  It may also be ignored or rejected!