

# MENDING Christmas

## When there is guilt and shame

Luke 2:8-20

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15 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." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## The Historical Background

1. Sheep were of great \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel.
  - Sheep can \_\_\_\_\_ almost anywhere.
  - Sheep are nearly the \_\_\_\_\_ animal for human survival.
2. Shepherds, however, were of \_\_\_\_\_ value in Israel.
  - Shepherds were ceremonially \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Shepherds had a reputation as \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Present Day Application

1. God's message came to shepherds throughout Israel's history; the Christmas proclamation to the shepherds, therefore, was the ultimate culmination of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's message came to those steeped in guilt and shame to remind us that salvation and forgiveness is available to those who are the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners.
3. God's message came to those watching lambs for temple \_\_\_\_\_ as a picture to indicate that Messiah would become the "lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world."

- ▶ ARE YOU PLAGUED BY GUILT AND SHAME THIS MORNING?
- ▶ DO YOU NEED TO RE-DISCOVER THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS?
- ▶ DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE IS FOR "YOU?"