

Christmas Eve



Services

3:30 & 5:30 pm





Christmas Eve Traffic Flow



DEEP & WIDE

Jane 6th – Feb. 10th

5:30

The Whys of Christmas



Every aspect
of Christ's first coming matters.

WHY

Shepherds?









Big idea:

God **loves** to take **ordinary** people, who are willing to **trust him**, and have them be part of his **extraordinary plan**.

“And there were Shepherds living
out in the fields nearby,”

Luke 2:8

“When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, ‘What is your occupation?’ you should answer, ‘Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on.’

Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, **for all shepherds are detestable** to the Egyptians.” Gen. 46: 33-34

Detestable

Out-cast

Non-people

Unclean

“Hey Mister! What is there to research about us?
WE ARE NOTHING! We just spend our lives running
after sheep and goats. We have no home or address,
sleeping under the open sky, in winter, summer, and
rains. We never rest in one place for a week. Waste
of time, then, yours and ours.”

Dr. Timothy Laniak



Reason # 1

God **loves** the **outsiders** who know they do not have it all together.

Why it matters:

Shepherds teach us that God's love
comes to us as we often feel on the
outside.

“Our churches are filled with people who outwardly look contented and at peace **but inwardly** are crying out for someone to love them...they are confused, frustrated, frightened, guilty, and often unable to communicate with their own families. **They falsely assume** that everyone else is **so much happier** than they are, thus, they seldom find the courage to express their needs and struggles to what appears to be such a self-sufficient group as the average church member appears to be.” Keith Miller

“When **we sin** and mess up our lives, we find that God doesn’t go off and leave us – **He enters** into our trouble and **saves us.**”

-Eugene Peterson



God loves the outsiders who know they do not have it all together.

And shepherds teach us that God's love comes to us as we often feel on the outside.

“And there were Shepherds living out in the fields **nearby**, keeping watch over their flocks at **night**”

Luke 2:8

Reason # 2

They were **close** by and **available**.

Why it matters...

More often than not, God is simply calling us **to slow down** and **open our eyes** to what He is doing all around us.

“Spiritual growth does not happen by running faster. What keeps us from growing spiritually is not always sin, **but our pace of life**. We’re going as fast as we can, living at a dizzy speed, and God is nowhere to be found. **We’re not rejecting God; we don’t have time for him**. Our struggle is not with the Bible but with **the clock**. Could it be that it is not our indulgences that are shrinking our souls, **but our schedules?**”

Keith Miller

“Could you possibly be too **busy**?”

“If I see that my schedule has **no time** in my day to meet with God in personal prayer and scripture meditation I know that it is **not God’s schedule for my life.**”

Dr. John Stumbo



Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb.

Is there **room** in your life for God to
break in?

Reason # 2

They were **close** by and **available**.

Why it matters...

More often than not, God is simply calling us **to slow down** and **open our eyes** to what He is doing all around us.

“**You will find** the babe wrapped in cloths lying in a manger...” When the angels left them and had gone into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “**Let’s go** to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Luke 2: 12;15

Reason # 3

They were willing to go and see.

Why it matters...

A response is always needed with God's revelation of His Son.

Revelation



Response

How are you **daily responding** to
God's revelation of his Son?

How do you **want** to respond?

How **will** you respond?

Why shepherds? Things haven't changed much since that night 2000 years ago. God still accepts us as we are, without religious performance. He welcomes the lost, the least and the little, the fragile, the broken, the used, the discarded. He is not looking for shooting stars, but those who are humble and **willing to trust.**

Big idea:

God **loves** to take **ordinary** people, who are willing to **trust him**, and have them be part of his **extraordinary plan**.