

From Hiding in Fear to Speaking with Confidence

Luke 2:8-20

We are in the season when we concentrate on the power of God to raise the dead; both His Son and us. Paul prays that we might know *“what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”* (Romans 1:19), the same power *“which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.”* It takes the same incredible power of God to transform a sinner that it took to raise Christ’s dead body! This is why people need God. This is why people need to cry out to God. The medicine all need is in Him! Why do we hesitate to tell someone about Christ? Why are we scared? How can we overcome our fear? In our text we see shepherds who begin hiding in fear from God and wind up telling others about God.

I. God uses the most unlikely people to share the good news.

The shepherds were religious outcasts. According to Jewish religious law, these men were unclean. Their line of work prevented them from participating in the feasts and holy days that made up the Jewish religious calendar because somebody had to watch the sheep. When everyone else was making the trip to Jerusalem, the shepherds were out in the fields, watching over the sheep. A modern day example might be a trucker or a shift worker, whose job keeps them from regularly attending church. It wasn’t really their fault. But they were looked down on, from a religious point of view. This is something to remember when you think yourself ‘unqualified’ to talk with someone.

II. God uses a familiar process to get His people ready to share.

God *can* work in many different and various ways (and often does), but the shepherds remind me of numerous people (including me), that go through a familiar process to make us witnesses for Him!

(A). Truth begins to set me free...

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy... for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (v. 10-11). The Messiah had come!

(1). Deliverance he would bring to us (the name Savior).

(2). Peace he would give to us (the name Christ, the Messiah, or Anointed One).

(3). Favor he would bestow on us (the name Lord).

(B) Experience empowers me to speak...

“Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened” (Luke 2:15). Once you go and see for yourself, you are empowered to go and tell others what you’ve seen.

(C). Love commissions me to go

“When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them...” (v. 17).

III. God uses the spoken word to change the lives of people.

The power of the spoken word. We read in the Old Testament that the spoken word is very powerful and the spoken word by God was used to create the world and create all that is or will ever be. The wisest man who ever lived wrote, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue”* (Proverbs 18:21). Medical doctors have said that the words I love you have revived patients from the brink of death. To be told that we are loved gives us life. Likewise, to be told that *“God loves you and gave you His Son”* brings eternal life. Ultimately, all who hide in fear from God refuse to speak of God to others!

But oh, what a joyous change comes over us! The journey that is begun in faith will end in praise! *“The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them”* (Luke 2:20). I move from hiding to speaking through truth, experience, love.