



A Very Vintage Christmas
Lessons from Shepherds
Luke 2:8–21

Christmas is upon us and we're in the second week of Advent. Advent, which comes from the Latin word for "arrival" or "coming," is an important season in the life of the church. And many get confused about it, thinking that it is primarily about Jesus' incarnation and birth. Rather, Advent is primarily about his second coming—his return. Just as people longed for and anticipated the Messiah's first coming, today we are to anticipate and expect his return.

Throughout this Advent season Vintage Church is looking at key figures in the Christmas story. We're looking at not only how they responded to the first coming of Jesus, but also what they can teach us about Jesus' return. We continued A Very Vintage Christmas by looking at lessons from the Shepherds from Luke 2:8–21.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Luke 2:8–11

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

- For Christmas, the shepherds were told to look for a sign—a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths. For Advent, we’re called to look for a sign—the return of Jesus. How does the New Testament describe the return of Jesus? What are we to watch for? For help, look at 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18.
- What should “watching for the Lord” create in us? Why might that reaction or feeling be important?
- Watching and waiting can sometimes lead to laziness, but that’s not what Christians are to do. Why is our spiritual pursuit of the Lord important, especially as we watch and wait for Jesus’ return?
- What are some practical ways we can and/or should pursue the Lord, and why?
- One of the hardest things to do is wait. Why do you think it’s especially hard to wait for the return of Jesus?

- How does the Lord use waiting to shape/form us?
- What was it about the angels' announcements and meeting baby Jesus that caused the shepherds to praise and glorify the Lord?
- In this Advent and Christmas season why are you glorifying the Lord?
- Consider glorifying the Lord by choosing your favorite Christmas hymn and singing it together. Some great options include "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World," or "O Come All Ye Faithful."
- As we close, what kind of joy do you need in your life this Advent season? Close by bringing those requests to the Lord in prayer, asking him to answer each one of them.