

The Best Gift (Part 3) Christmas Eve

The Arrival of the Gift

Luke 2:1–20

Introduction: On that holy night, God’s promised gift arrived in the person of His Son, born to save. Jesus’ birth is good news of great joy for all people. We should receive the gift personally. Worship with the shepherds. Share the joy of Christ’s coming with others.

I. The providence of the gift (Luke 2:1–7)

God orchestrated world events to bring His Son into the world exactly as prophesied.

A. The decree and divine timing

1. Luke 2:1–3 — Caesar Augustus issues a decree; all must return to their hometowns.
2. Micah 5:2 — prophesied, Jesus must be born in Bethlehem.
3. Galatians 4:4 — “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.”
4. Proverbs 21:1 — “The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He will.”

B. The delivery by Mary

1. Luke 2:6–7 — Mary gives birth in humble surroundings.
2. Isaiah 7:14 — prophesied, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive...”
3. Philippians 2:6–7 — The Apostle Paul explained, Jesus “made himself nothing... being found in appearance as a man.”

Max Lucado: “The omnipotent, in one instant, made Himself breakable.”

God’s providence shows us with God; no detail is random. So, we can have great confidence in putting our lives in His hands.

II. The proclamation of the gift (Luke 2:8–14)

The angelic announcement revealed the significance of Christ’s birth.

A. To Lowly Shepherds

- Luke 2:8 — Shepherds in the fields; considered societal outcasts.

Charles Stanley: “God loves to use the least likely people...”

B. The Lofty News

1. Luke 2:9–11 — “Fear not... good news of great joy... for all the people.”
2. Luke 2:11 — “Unto you is born... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
3. Luke 2:14 — “Glory to God in the highest...”
4. Luke 2:12 — *The sign: A baby in a manger.*

David Jeremiah: WWII soldier’s letter from home — reminder of no matter the battle, he was loved.

The angels’ message was God’s love letter to the world.

III. The pursuit of the gift (Luke 2:15–17)

The shepherds responded immediately. Their faith wasn’t passive—it moved them.

A. They Acted Swiftly

1. Luke 2:15 — “Let us go... and see...”
2. James 1:22 — “Be doers of the word...”
3. Jeremiah 29:13 — “You will seek me and find me...”

B. They Found the Savior

1. Luke 2:17 — “They made known” what they had seen.
2. Luke 2:18 — *All who heard were amazed.*
3. Luke 2:19 — *Mary treasured and pondered these things.*

Chuck Swindoll: “The shepherds didn’t just hear about joy; they chased it down.”

Psalm 107:2 — “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

IV. There is praise for the gift (Luke 2:18–20)

Joy always leads to worship and witness. (Luke 2:20) — “Returned, glorifying and praising God...”

A. Receive the Gift Personally -John 1:12 — “To all who received Him... He gave the right to become children of God.”

B. Worship Like the Shepherds

1. Luke 2:11 — “To us is born... a Savior.”
2. Luke 2:19 — Mary pondered.

John Piper: “Joy in the Lord endures through life’s sorrows.”

C. Share the Joy with Others -Luke 2:17 — The shepherds “made known” the message.

John MacArthur: “The first evangelists weren’t trained theologians—they were shepherds...”

Conclusion: William Barclay: “The great truth of the Incarnation is that God entered human life and can still be found there.”

Unwrapping the gift:

- Will you receive Him?
- Will you rejoice like the shepherds?
- Will you respond by sharing the joy?

Let every heart prepare Him room. For the Gift has come!