

Breaking Silence

WEEK TWO: Why did God break silence with an insignificant group of shepherds?

Luke 2:8-15

NOTES:

1. Verse 8 – What is the greater context of this passage (Hint: “In the same region...”)
2. Verse 9 – Why were the shepherds terrified (lit. Wholly frightened)?
3. Verses 10-12 – What is the content of the angels’ message?
4. Verses 13-14 – How does this prove God was satisfied with the angel’s message?
5. Verse 15 (and into v. 16) - What did the shepherds do when God broke silence?

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

Why did God break silence with an insignificant group of shepherds? Because God often does His best through those society deems to be the least!

For Starters: Share a time when you had breaking news and needed to think about who you should tell first. Why did you choose the person that you did? Was it the right person? Why or why not?

Quick Fire Round:

Three implications from this week’s message in Luke 2:8-15.

1. God is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34-36) Discuss settings where you’ve experienced unfair favoritism and its impact on people. An example would be that of being overlooked for a job promotion because of an unfair reason. How does the person of Jesus level the playing field for all people given God is no respecter of persons?
2. God does extraordinary things through ordinary people every day. (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12) Would you consider yourself an ordinary person compared to other people? Why or why not? Do you think God is most concerned about big events in life or the daily grind? Why or why not?
3. God wants us to give special attention to the marginalized. (Isaiah 1:17) What does the word, “marginalized” mean (look it up to confirm)? Look up NMC’s core values on the church website. What value or values do you believe are related to this third implication? What are some ways society marginalized people? Do you have this attitude toward any individual or people? How does God want us to see people and why?

Weekly Challenge:

Last week we learned that God spoke in many different ways in the Old Testament to His people. Then, He went silent for some 400 years! Yet, He was still at work preparing the world for the arrival of His Son, Jesus. This Sunday we focused on God actually breaking that 400 years of silence. What was God’s message? His Son, our Savior, Jesus was born into the world! The angel said this was Good News of a Great Joy for ALL people. What would it look like for you this week to be burdened for the salvation of ALL people no matter who they are? Thinking this way aligns us with the heart of God.