

The People Who Found Christmas Selected Passages

Introduction: The Most Powerful Person In History

- Note: Jesus made an impact on the world that never has been or will be equaled.
- Our Focus: The shepherds and wisemen serve as models for anyone who wants to find Christmas.

A Study In Contrasting Examples

1st Contrast: The Social Scale

- The Shepherds: The lowest element of society
- The Wisemen: Respected people of influence

2nd Contrast: Their Financial Status

- The Shepherds: Part of the working poor
- The Wisemen: Rich—fabulously rich

3rd Contrast: Their Educational Status

- The Shepherds: Common, uneducated people
- The Wisemen: Known for their training and wisdom

4th Contrast: Their Proximity To Jesus

- The Shepherds: Nearby
- The Wisemen: Far away

Insight: The lesson in the contrasts is that Jesus is for everyone! Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.

A Study In Common Experiences

1st Common Experience: They Each Received A Special Announcement Of Jesus' Birth

- The Shepherds: Both visual and verbal (Luke 2:10-14)
- The Wisemen: Visual only (Matthew 2:2)
- Us: Scripture, which is superior (2 Peter 1:16-21)

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:18-19 NIV)

2nd Common Experience: They Each Obeyed And Responded To The Invitation

- The Shepherds: Could have stayed “in their place” with the sheep
- The Wisemen: Could have decided the trip was too long
- Us: What about you? Jesus offers His invitation

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28 NLT)

3rd Common Experience: They Each Found The Savior

- The Shepherds: Came to the stable that night
- The Wisemen: Arrived later at a house
- Us: Jesus makes it clear He can still be found

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 NLT)

4th Common Experience: They Each Worshiped The Savior

- The Shepherds: *“The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.” (Luke 2:20 NLT)*
- The Wisemen: *“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11 NLT)*
- Us: Rediscover Jesus and worship Him

Conclusion: Eyewitnesses Of His Majesty