

Hope Church A passion for life

Carol Service
21 December 2014

Why Shepherds?



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, All
 2. "Fear not!" said he, for migh - ty dread Had
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day Is
 4. "The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To
 5. Thus spake the ser - aph and forth - with Ap -
 6. "All glo - ry be to God on high, And



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Luke states the obvious (?)

- ***"There were gamekeepers living out in the woods near Balmoral, keeping watch over their pheasants at night."***
- Not just any old woods – belong to someone special
- Not just any old pheasants – have a special purpose
- Not just any old gamekeepers – have a special role



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Luke states the obvious (?)

- *“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby (i.e. close to Bethlehem), keeping watch over their flocks at night.”* (Luke 2:8)
- Not just any old fields – belong to someone special
- Not just any old flocks – have a special purpose
- Not just any old shepherds – have a special role



Luke states the obvious (?)

- *“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby (i.e. close to Bethlehem), keeping watch over their flocks at night.”* (Luke 2:8)
- These fields **belonged to the priests**
- These sheep **were destined for temple sacrifice**
- These shepherds **had to inspect the new-born lambs**

“OBVIOUSLY !”


The shepherds' job



The slide features a brown background with a decorative border of white snowflake patterns. The title "The shepherds' job" is centered at the top. Below the title are three images: on the left, a shepherd in a white head covering carries a white lamb on his back; in the center, a detailed model of the Temple of Jerusalem is shown; on the right, a white sheep is lying down on a dark surface. A small "www.fact.info" watermark is visible in the bottom right corner.

The shepherds' problem

- Ritually unclean
- Banned from temple and synagogues
- No respect from society, viewed as outcasts



“A man should not teach his son to be an ass-driver, or a camel-driver, or a barber, or a sailor, or a shepherd, or a shopkeeper, for all these are the trades of thieves.” (Mishnah)

The slide features a brown background with a decorative border of white snowflake patterns. The title "The shepherds' problem" is centered at the top. Below the title is a bulleted list of three points. To the right of the list is a red circle with a diagonal cross over a photograph of a temple entrance. Below the list is a yellow box containing a quote in bold, italicized text. A small "www.fact.info" watermark is visible in the bottom right corner.

The shepherds' call



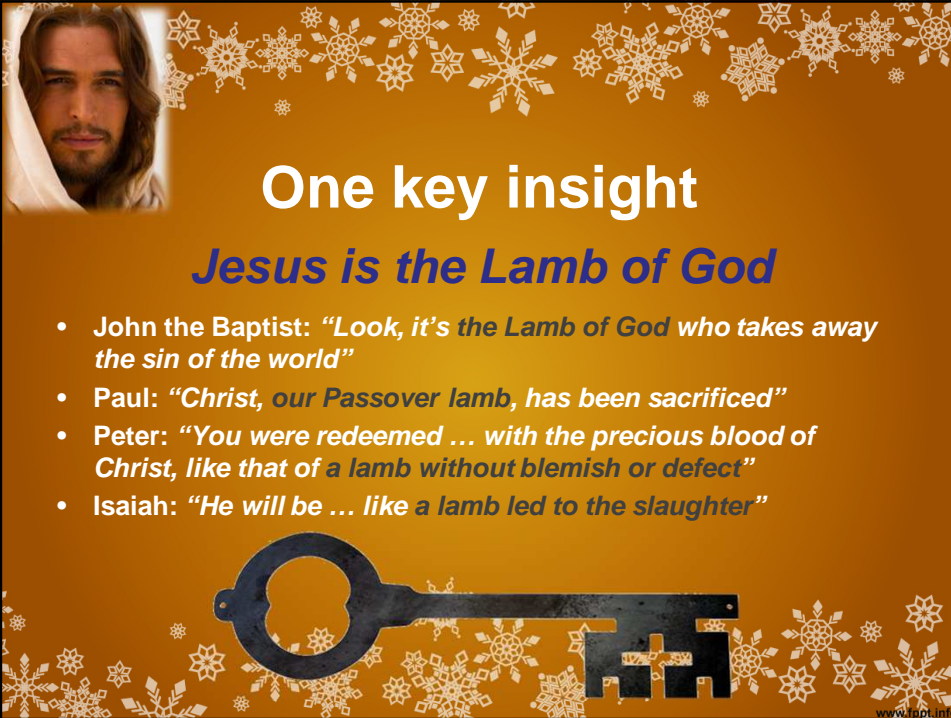

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

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The shepherds' response




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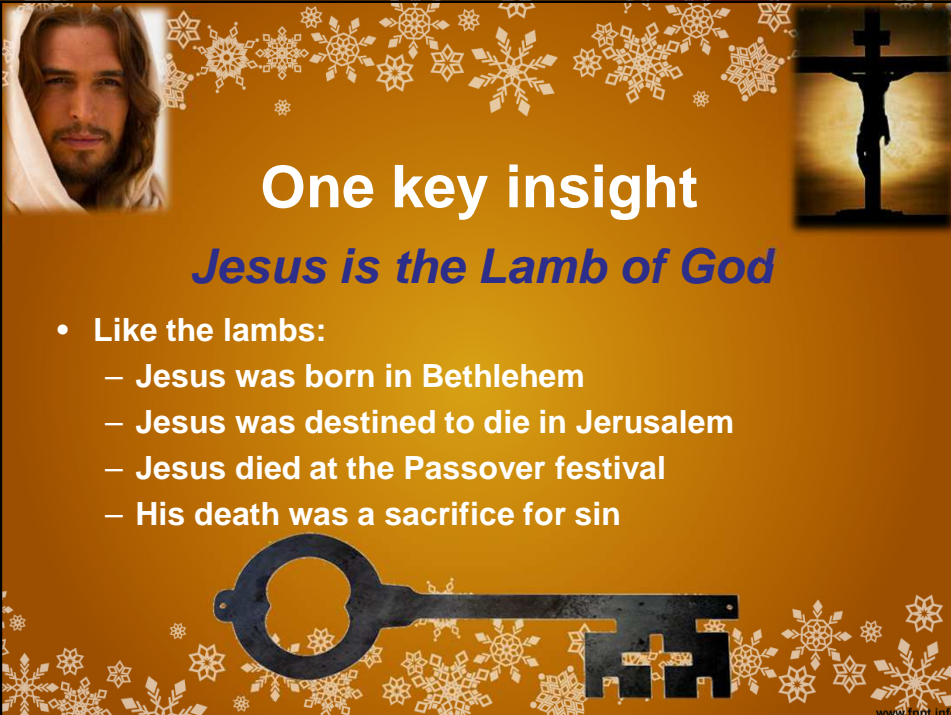


One key insight

Jesus is the Lamb of God

- John the Baptist: *“Look, it’s the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”*
- Paul: *“Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”*
- Peter: *“You were redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or defect”*
- Isaiah: *“He will be ... like a lamb led to the slaughter”*




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One key insight

Jesus is the Lamb of God

- Like the lambs:
 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem
 - Jesus was destined to die in Jerusalem
 - Jesus died at the Passover festival
 - His death was a sacrifice for sin



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Are you a shepherd?

- On the edge, not at home in religious scene?
- Don't feel "good enough" to approach God?
- No way to get right with God?

"I bring you good news ... a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord."



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"Go and see...!"



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