

Advent: A Season of Expectation  
Looking Forward to Joy  
Luke 2:4-14

Songwriters get their inspiration from their context, their life experiences, and their main concerns. They often sing about that which is most important to them. It makes sense that our faith is a singing faith, that we would sing about the God of the universe and His love for us. That is why we worship the way we worship. God has gifted us with song because he wired us to be connected to Him that way. When we lift our voices in song, we join with the angels in heaven who were created for that very purpose.

1. Joy is available when we trust God's providence and sovereignty.
  
2. Joy is available when we trust God's redemptive purposes in Jesus.
  
3. Joy is available when we trust God's call to proclaim His glory.

The shepherds became active participants in the story. That's just what true believers do. A glimpse of glory divine compels us to run to Him immediately. This season we get to follow in the footsteps of these first witnesses once again. Christmas allows us an opportunity to celebrate at the foot of the manger and experience the transcendent power of Christ's presence. When we take time to do that through this season of Christmas, the joy is unstoppable.

Reflection

Consider the question, "Who do you know that always seems to be full of joy?" Why do you think that is? What steps can you take, if you aren't already, to be a person who lights up a room with the joy of Christ? What do you think is the significance of God choosing to first reveal Christ's birth to shepherds? What hope does that detail inspire in you? Consider with gratitude the ways in which you have experienced joy and peace through Jesus. Since hearing and embracing the gospel for yourself, how excited have been about sharing it with others? With whom can you share the joy of salvation this Christmas season?