

Readings

Scripture

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- Luke 2:10 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

I do mean that wickedness, when you examine it, turns out to be the pursuit of some good in the wrong way.

- CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (p. 49)

No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good...You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who knows to the full what temptation means – the only complete realist.

- CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (p. 124-125)

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. We do not know – anyway, I do not know – how things would have worked if the human race had never rebelled against God and joined the enemy.

- CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (p. 154)

Sermon Outline

Good News of Great Joy...

Luke 2:10

The Incarnation of Love

Brad Anderson

The incarnation is good news! (Luke 2:10)

What is unique about this good news?

Good news that meets us in our fears... (Luke 2:10)

Good news that fills us with great joy... (Luke 2:10)

Good news that extends to all people... (Luke 2:10)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is the best news you have ever heard? Where were you when you heard it? What were you doing? How was it delivered? What made it good news? How did you respond? Who did you tell?
- News is typically delivered as accomplished fact. How is the incarnation good news, delivered to us as an accomplished fact? What message comprises the "good news" according to Luke 2:8-20?
- What words were used to describe the shepherds' reaction to the good news? How did the sign given by the angel prove the trustworthiness of words declared by the angel?
- Describe some of the ways that you observe news traveling today. If you were to capture the scene and deliver the "good news" today, how would you tell the story?