

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Luke 2:8-20

December 27, 2020

听!天使唱报信的歌

路加福音2:8-20

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I don't know about you, but Christmas music begins to be played at my house in October...and sometime periodically during the entire year. We love it. The sounds of Christmas have been special to me since I was a child. From the first note, my heart leaps with joy and my mind is flooded with memories from Christmas' past. But sometimes I'll come across a Christmas song that really leaves me scratching my head. Some lyrics that I mindlessly sing, just don't make much sense...at least not to me. Take for instance the Christmas favorite..."We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Great song. But take a quick listen to this line...

我不知道你是怎么想的，但是圣诞节音乐从十月份开始在我家里播放，而且一年中有时会定期播放。我们喜爱它。自从我还是个孩子的时候，圣诞节的声音就对我有特殊的意义。从第一个音符开始，我的心就因喜悦而雀跃，我的脑海中充满了过去圣诞节的回忆。但有时我会读到一首让我百思不得其解的圣诞歌曲。我无意中唱的一些歌词，对我来说没有什么意义，至少对我来说没有意义。就拿圣诞节最受欢迎的句子来说吧：“祝你圣诞快乐。”“伟大的歌曲。但是，快来听一听这一行字.....

(10 seconds) What in the world is that? And then the next verse says, "We won't leave until we get some..." First, if your friends really want figgy pudding, they have bad taste; second, if they say they WON'T leave until they get some, they have bad manners. I think it's time to reevaluate who we associate with.

(10秒)那到底是什么?然后下一节说：“我们不会离开，直到我们得到一些.....”“首先，如果你的朋友真的想要无花果布丁，他们的口味很差;其次，如果他们说他们不会离开直到他们得到一些，他们是没有礼貌的。我认为是时候重新评估我们的交往对象了。

Well, as we wrap up our Advent series called Simply Christmas, I want to spend out last Sunday of the year looking the famous Christmas carol...

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. This song first appeared in 1739, written by Charles Wesley and George Whitefield. By describing Christ, Wesley tells us the entire Gospel story is this song.

“Hark” is a pretty old-school word that I’ve never heard anyone use. Well, it just means, “listen.” The writer of this carol is telling us to pay attention to something that he’s afraid we’ll miss. This song is being sung from the perspective of a shepherd. Before we get into the song...Let’s look at this account from Luke 2:8-18

好吧，当我们结束我们的降临系列称为简单的圣诞节，我想花在去年的最后一个星期天看著名的圣诞颂歌...听!报信天使歌唱。这首歌首次出现在1739年，由查尔斯·韦斯利和乔治·怀特菲尔德所写。通过描述基督，卫斯理告诉我们整个福音故事就是这首歌。

“听”是个很古老的词，我从来没听人用过。它的意思是：“听着。”这首颂歌的作者告诉我们，要关注一些他担心我们会错过的东西。这首歌是从一个牧羊人的角度来唱的。在我们进入这首歌之前，让我们看看路加福音2:8-18的记述

8 And in the same region (near Bethlehem) there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it,

they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

8 在伯利恒之野地里有牧羊的人，夜间按着更次看守羊群。9 有主的使者站在他们旁边，主的荣光四面照着他们，牧羊的人就甚惧怕。10 那天使对他们说：“不要惧怕！我报给你们大喜的信息，是关乎万民的。11 因今天在大卫的城里，为你们生了救主，就是主基督。12 你们要看见一个婴孩，包着布，卧在马槽里，那就是记号了。”13 忽然，有一大队天兵同那天使赞美 神说：14 “在至高之处荣耀归与 神！在地上平安归与他所喜悦的人（注：有古卷作“喜悦归与人”）！”15 众天使离开他们，升天去了。牧羊的人彼此说：“我们往伯利恒去，看看所成的事，就是主所指示我们的。”16 他们急忙去了，就寻见马利亚和约瑟，又有那婴孩卧在马槽里；17 既然看见，就把天使论这孩子的话传开了。18 凡听见的，就诧异牧羊之人对他们所说的话19 马利亚却把这一切的事存在心里，反复思想。20 牧羊的人回去了，因所听见所看见的一切事，正如天使向他们所说的，就归荣耀与 神，赞美他。

The shepherds were the only ones to actually see the angels, and there are some things about what they saw that evening that they wanted to make sure Mary and Joseph saw...and wanted to make sure we see as well.

There are 3 amazing aspects of this account that give us the secret to understanding the true meaning of Christmas:

牧羊人是唯一能真正看到天使的人，那天晚上他们看到了一些东西，他们想确保玛丽和约瑟夫看到，也想确保我们也看到。

这个解释有3个惊人的方面，给了我们理解圣诞节真正意义的秘密：

First, it's amazing that the angels appeared to shepherds.

The shepherds had to be the least likely people on earth to receive an angelic announcement about the birth of a King. Shepherds were the lowest class in Jewish society. They were the ultimate unskilled laborers; shepherding was a job you gave to kids. If you were still a shepherd as an

adult, that was a total life fail. They were so low...that their testimony was not even acceptable in court. But here's why the angels' appearing to the shepherds is so important for us:

Because while Christmastime is joyful for a lot of people—all calm and bright—for others it reminds them of how disappointed they are in life. It makes some feel really depressed and lonely. Or maybe it reminds you of someone who used to be in your life that is not anymore—a father, a husband, a child, a friend or girlfriend. Or maybe you forget how broken and dysfunctional your family is until Christmas comes around. For some of you, your whole goal over this past week for the police not to get called. 首先，天使出现在牧羊人面前是令人惊奇的。

牧羊人应该是地球上最不可能收到天使宣布国王诞生的消息的人。牧羊人是犹太人社会中地位最低的阶层。他们是终极的非技术劳工;放羊是你交给孩子们的工作。如果你成年后仍然是一个牧羊人，那是完全的生活失败。他们的证词如此之低，以至于法庭都不接受他们的证词。但这就是为什么天使出现在牧羊人面前对我们如此重要:

因为虽然圣诞节对很多人来说都是快乐的——所有人都平静而光明——但对另一些人来说，它提醒他们生活中有多失望。这让一些人感到非常沮丧和孤独。或者它会让你想起某个曾经在你生命中不复存在的人——父亲、丈夫、孩子、朋友或女友。或者你可能会忘记你的家庭有多破碎和功能失调，直到圣诞节来临。对于你们中的一些人来说，你们过去一周的目标就是不报警。

I heard one guy say that **happiness is having a large, close-knit family... who all live in another city.**

Maybe this Christmas finds you jobless and worried; The effects of the coronavirus have left you feeling hopeless, broke, and unsure of the future. Maybe you are concerned with your kids are falling behind because in-person classes aren't happening yet. Perhaps this season has revealed some issues in your marriage that have been undetected or under the rug...Or maybe you lack of marriage prospects. Well...these shepherds didn't feel like their lives were going all that well either. Today it's possible that you are in that same place. Well listen...You! are the ones to whom the angels most want to give their message. Hark!

我听一个家伙说幸福就是拥有一个紧密团结的大家庭.....他们都住在另一个城市。

也许这个圣诞节你失业和焦虑;冠状病毒的影响让你感到绝望、崩溃和对未来不确定。也许你担心你的孩子落后了，因为面对面的课程还没有开始。也许这一季揭示了你婚姻中一些未被发现或被掩盖的问题.....又或许你对婚姻缺

乏希望。这些牧羊人也不觉得他们的生活一帆风顺。今天，你很可能处在同样的位置。嗯...你听!天使们最想把他们的信息传达给他们的人。听!

Second, it's amazing how overjoyed the angels were at this birth.

The angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest," which means, "God deserves the GREATEST praise for the birth of this baby." Which is pretty remarkable when you think about what else these angels had seen! They had been firsthand witness of creation, where God spoke a word, and something came from nothing...where order came from disorder. Where in a word, millions of galaxies were formed.

Astronomers tell us there are a total of about 3 million trillion stars. That's a "3" with 24 0's after it. And for me... numbers like that are beyond my comprehension... million, billion, trillion... it all kind of sounds the same. Well, see if this helps: One million seconds ago was Tuesday, Dec 8. About 11.5 days ago. A billion seconds ago would be September, 1988. Almost 32 years. In 1988, Barry Sanders won the Heisman Trophy, the number one song on the radio was Faith by George Michael, and... I was 6 years old.

其次，天使们在这个降生的时刻是多么的喜出望外。

天使们宣告说：“荣耀归与至高的神。”(这就是说：“神生了这个孩子，配得极大的赞美。”)“当你想到这些天使所看到的其他东西时，这是相当了不起的!”他们亲眼见证了上帝的创造，上帝说的道，从无到有.....秩序从无序中产生。一句话，数以百万计的星系形成了。

天文学家告诉我们，地球上总共有300万万亿颗恒星。这是一个3后面有24个0。而对我来说.....那样的数字超出了我的理解.....百万美元,兆.....听起来都一样。好吧，看看这是否有帮助:一百万秒前是12月8日，星期二。大约11.5天前。10亿秒前是1988年9月。近32年。1988年，巴里·桑德斯赢得了海斯曼奖，收音机里的冠军歌曲是乔治·迈克尔的《信仰》，那时我6岁。

A trillion seconds ago was 31,688 years ago. That would have been around 29,668 B.C., which is roughly 24,000 years before the earliest civilizations began to take shape.

So...a million seconds: about 11 days...a trillion seconds...32,000 years. Does that help? Well, scientists tell us there are 3 million trillion stars in the universe. The sun, which is just one of those 3 million trillion stars, and it's not even a very big one...and it puts out the same amount of energy as a trillion mega-ton bombs.

These angels had seen all that... but that's not what they thought gave God glory in the highest. **THEY SAID: Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.**

一万亿秒之前是31688年前。那应该是在公元前29,668年左右，比最早的文明开始成形大约早24,000年。

所以，一百万秒:大约11天，一万亿秒，32000年。这有帮助吗?科学家告诉我们宇宙中有300万亿个恒星。太阳只是这300万亿亿颗恒星中的一颗，而且它还不是很大，它释放出的能量相当于一万亿吨炸弹的能量。

这些天使已经目睹了这一切.....但这并不是他们所认为的给予上帝最高荣耀的东西。他们说:披着肉身的神看，向化身的神欢呼!我们的以马内利，耶稣，乐意与人同住。

The greatest glory that God displayed was his decision to come and die for sinners... to come and live among them and take their place...

WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS, THEY THOUGHT? God knew that we were sinful, selfish, prideful, and lustful traitors. Even so, He traded the life of his most precious Son.

1 Peter 12 says that the angels are amazed by the gospel and **“longed to look more deeply into these things.”**

Think about that: the angels who saw God create the universe and see his face every single day, long to look more deeply into the wonder of the gospel. They say: **Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings;**

神所显示的最大荣耀是他决定来为罪人而死。来和他们生活在一起，取代他们的位置...

他们想，上帝为什么要这样做?神知道我们是有罪的、自私的、骄傲的、有私欲的叛徒。尽管如此，他还是牺牲了自己最珍贵的儿子的生命。

彼得前书1章12说，天使们因福音惊奇，**“愿意详细察看这些事。”**

想想看:那些看见神创造宇宙，每天看见神面的天使，渴望更深入地观察福音的奇妙之处。他们说:为来自天堂的和平王子欢呼!颂赞公义的儿子。他给一切带来光明和生命，用愈合的翅膀飞起;

The angels had seen God's power to create, with a word, 3 million trillion stars, but they were **more amazed** at the mercy Jesus showed to rebellious sinners and his power to heal them. GREATER than the power that pours out from our sun is God's power to put your life back together after sin has messed it up.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth!

天使们看到了上帝用一个字就能创造300万亿个星星的能力，但他们更惊讶于耶稣对叛逆的罪人的怜悯和他医治他们的能力。神的能力比太阳的能力更大，它能在罪把我们的生活弄得一团糟后，把我们的生活重新整理好。他以温和的方式展示他的荣耀，生而使人不再死亡，生而养育大地的子民，生而使他们重生！

The gospel is that you and I were doomed, and Jesus came to save us. You see, underneath all your religious, good, moral make-up, we're really just rebellious sinners. That may sound harsh, but look into your heart—Deep down, haven't we all assumed that **we knew best** how to run our lives? Haven't we preferred to make ourselves the focus and center of our lives? Don't our thoughts and our will tend to trump God's? THAT'S MORAL INSANITY, and COSMIC TREASON, and the penalty for that cosmic treason is death.

福音告诉我们，你和我都是命中注定的，耶稣来拯救我们。

你看，在你所有的宗教，善良，道德的外表下，我们真的只是叛逆的罪人。这听起来很残酷，但扪心自问，难道我们不都认为自己最了解如何管理自己的生活吗？难道我们不是更愿意让自己成为生活的焦点和中心吗？我们的思想和意志不是倾向于胜过神的吗？那是道德上的疯狂，和宇宙的叛逆，而这种叛逆的惩罚就是死亡。

I know it's common to see ourselves as basically good people with blind spots, or weaknesses... or misunderstood people with hidden potential. But that's not what the Bible says about us... It says that we are traitors to God, under the rightful curse of death. And there are ONLY two ways that curse can be resolved: **we suffer** it eternally ourselves (which means we are separated from God forever in a place called hell); **or Jesus, in his love, absorbs it** in our place. That was the CROSS: Jesus dying—absorbing the curse—in my place. The Creator, dying in the place of the created, and the angels can't understand it:

Mild, he lays his glory by, born that men no more may die...

我知道这是很常见的，认为我们自己基本上是好人的，有盲点或弱点.....或误解了潜在的人。但圣经不是这样说我们的.....它说我们是在合法的死亡诅咒下背叛上帝的叛徒。只有两种方法可以解除诅咒:我们自己永远受苦(这意味着我们在一个叫地狱的地方与神永远分离);或者耶稣，在他的爱中，把它吸收到我们的地方。那就是十字架:耶稣受难，替我承受诅咒。造物主，死在被创造的地方，天使不能理解:

温和，他把他的荣耀，出生，人们不会再死亡...

It's popular to say that whatever way you want to follow God is ok; God is like a mountain, there are many roads leading to Him. All paths are all headed to the same place... But that's not what the Bible says. It says, **And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

Acts 4:12

And in John 14...**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

John 14:6

人们常说，无论你以什么方式追随上帝都是可以的;上帝就像一座山，有许多道路通向他。所有的路径都指向同一个地方.....但圣经不是这么说的。圣经说，**除他以外，别无拯救。因为在天下人间，没有赐下别的名，我们可以靠着得救。**

使徒行传4:12

在约翰福音14章6节...耶稣对他说:**"我就是道路，真理，生命。若不藉着我，没有人能到父那里去。"**约翰福音14 : 6

You see, every other religion teaches you that you can save yourself. If you are good enough, do enough religious rituals, you'll be saved. But Jesus taught that we couldn't save ourselves, so He did. But we must receive him and at the gift of life that He offers.

Listen... If I can't swim, and you are on the boat deck with a life preserver and a bowling ball... and you say, "Which one you want?" And I say, "it doesn't matter which one you throw me, just throw me one now..." That's

crazy! It makes a big difference! Religion says, "Try harder; be better." Jesus' message is, "I did it for you. I did what you could never do. Receive it as a gift." So the shepherds say, "Hark! This is your lifesaver!"

你看，其他宗教都教导你，你可以拯救自己。如果你够好，做足够多的宗教仪式，你就会得救。但是耶稣教导我们不能拯救自己，所以他就这样做了。但我们必须接受他，接受他所赐给我们的生命。

听.....如果我不会游泳，而你站在甲板上，拿着救生衣和保龄球.....你说，“你想要哪一个？”我说：“你扔给我哪一个都没关系，现在就扔给我一个.....”“这太疯狂了！这有很大的不同！宗教说：“更加努力；变得更好。耶稣的信息是：“我为你做了这事。”我做了你永远做不到的事。把它当作礼物来接受。于是牧羊人说：“听！”这是你的救星！”

Lastly... It's amazing that the shepherds were chosen to make this announcement.

As I mentioned, the only ones who saw the angels that night were the shepherds. Everybody else had to hear about this announcement from the shepherds. These guys experienced glory and songs and angels and everyone else experienced the testimony of smelly, barely literate shepherds. And honestly, that may disappoint us too... Most of us would probably prefer the angels over the shepherds. But this is a very important thing you need to learn about God: Throughout Scripture, **God's PRIMARY way of speaking to people is through broken and flawed instruments:** like shepherds.

最后.....令人惊讶的是，牧羊人被选中来宣布这个消息。

就像我提到的，那天晚上唯一看到天使的是牧羊人。其他人必须从牧羊人那里听到这个宣告。这些人经历了荣耀，歌曲，天使，而其他人则经历了臭烘烘的，几乎没有受过教育的牧羊人的见证。老实说，这可能也会让我们失望.....我们大多数人可能更喜欢天使而不是牧羊人。但这是你需要了解上帝的一件非常重要的事情:在圣经中，上帝与人交流的主要方式是通过破碎的，有缺陷的工具:，就像牧羊人。

You see, the first time most people hear the gospel message is from someone they know... a family member or a friend. And their flaws are known...because they have lived in close proximity. And you wonder, "How could God be speaking to me from my brother?" Do you know how he terrorized me as a kid? Or maybe you heard about all this for the first

time from your annoying neighbor. And all you can think is, “Their kids are totally out of control... How are they supposed to know the mysteries of eternity?” AT LEAST that’s WHAT MY NEIGHBORS ARE HERE ARE PROBABLY SAYING.

LISTEN: Just because the messenger is flawed does not mean the message is flawed. God chooses shepherds and normal imperfect people as his primary mouthpieces. That’s how it was at the first Christmas, and that’s how it is today. When you look to flawed people to be the perfect Jesus, you will be disappointed every time.

你看，大多数人第一次听到福音信息是从他们认识的人那里...家庭成员或朋友他们的缺点是众所周知的，因为他们住得很近。你会想:“上帝怎么能从我兄弟那里对我说话呢?”“你知道小时候他怎么吓唬我吗?”又或者你是第一次从你那讨厌的邻居那里听说这些。你所能想到的就是，“他们的孩子完全失控了.....他们怎么能知道永恒的奥秘呢?”至少我的邻居们可能会这么说。

听着:仅仅因为传信息者有缺陷并不意味着信息有缺陷。神选择牧人和正常的不完美的人作为他的主要口舌。这是第一个圣诞节时的情况，今天也是如此。当你把有缺点的人看作是完美的耶稣时，你每次都会失望。

In the Old Testament book of Numbers chapter 22, there’s a story about the prophet Balaam. He was about to do something God didn’t want him to do. And so he sent an angel to stand in his path, but Balaam couldn’t see the angel, only the donkey he was riding on could. And so the donkey refused to go forward. And Balaam started to beat the donkey. And then God opened the mouth of the donkey, and the donkey said, “Look, Jack, you best stop hitting me.”

Here’s the point, If God spoke through a donkey, He can speak through your annoying neighbor. In the same way, the message to you from the shepherds, and from me today is this: HARK—Listen! God has been pursuing you, speaking to you, trying to wake you up and draw you back to himself...Would you stop for a moment...and listen? Would you let the rush and stress of the Christmas season fade away for just a second...and listen? Would you put aside for a minute all of your objections...and listen? 在旧约民数记第22章，有一个关于先知巴兰的故事。他要做上帝不想让他做的事。于是打发一个天使站在路上，巴兰却看不见天使，只有他所骑的驴能看见。于是驴子就不肯往前走了。巴兰就动手打驴。上帝张开驴的嘴，驴说:“听着，杰克，你最好别打我。”

重点是，如果上帝通过驴子说话，他也能通过你讨厌的邻居说话。今天牧人和我有话要对你们说：你们当听！上帝一直在追着你，对你说话，试图唤醒你，把你拉回他自己身边……你能停一下吗？和听一下吗？你会让圣诞季的繁忙和压力消失一秒钟吗？和听一下吗？你能把你所有的反对意见放在一边一分钟吗？和听一下吗？

THE ANGELS are not telling you to try harder, or to be better. They aren't saying you need to memorize the entire Bible or have it all figured out.

They are not telling you that you're not good enough.

GOD IS telling you can never be good enough... but he loves you; so much that he left heaven for you and did the work of saving you. That's why Christmas is such a big deal!

There's nothing you need to do. Nothing you CAN do. Nothing...but LISTEN to his voice and receive the gift. Are you ready to harken—to listen—to his voice?

God created you for a love relationship with Him. But all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And this separates us from Him...and there's nothing you can do to fix the relationship. But God sent Jesus Christ, His son, to die for our sins. And after 3 days he rose from the dead, eternally triumphant over his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.

天使并不是在告诉你更加努力，或者变得更好。他们并不是说你需要记住整本圣经，或者把它们都算出来。他们并不是在告诉你你不够好。

神告诉你，你永远都不够好，但是他爱你。他为你离开了天堂，也为你做了拯救你的工作。这就是为什么圣诞节这么重要的原因！

你不需要做什么。你无能为力。没什么...只是听他的声音，接受礼物。你准备好倾听他的声音了吗？

上帝创造你是为了与他建立爱的关系。但世人都犯了罪，亏缺了神的荣耀。这就把我们和他分开了，你做什么也不能修复我们的关系。但神差遣他的儿子耶稣基督为我们的罪死。过了三天，他从死里复活，在仇敌面前得胜，叫那些信的人不再定罪，只得永远的喜乐。

Restore your sense of awe about the birth of Jesus today. And maybe for the first time, you need to live out Romans 10:9. It says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

As we close out 2020, Would you receive Jesus today. If so you can pray this prayer right where you are...

今天恢复你对耶稣诞生的敬畏感。也许是第一次，你需要活出罗马书10：9。书上说：“你若口里说耶稣是主，心里信 神叫他从死里复活，就必得救。”在2020年即将结束的时候，你今天会接受耶稣吗？如果是这样，你可以在原地祈祷...

“Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Well, Awakening Church, what did the shepherds do when they heard the angels? Luke 2 says they worshiped. So, I can't think of a more fitting way to respond this Christmas than to worship with all our hearts... giving glory to the newborn king!

亲爱的上帝，我知道我是一个罪人，我请求您的原谅。我相信耶稣基督是你的儿子。我相信他是为我的罪而死，而你又使他复活了。从今天起，我要信靠他做我的救主，跟随他做我的主。引导我的生命，帮助我实现你的意愿。我奉耶稣的名祈祷。阿门。”

那么，觉醒教会，当牧羊人听到天使的声音时，他们做了什么？路加福音第2章说他们敬拜。所以，我想不出一个更合适的方式来回应这个圣诞节比崇拜我们所有的心...把荣耀给新生的国王！

End