

Sermon Manuscript

The King Who Came in Humility

Series: *The King's Arrival* – Week 4

Text: Luke 2:8–20

Additional Texts: Isaiah 9:6–7; Micah 5:2; John 1:14

[Opening] – The Majesty Hidden in a Manger

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

There's something about Christmas Eve that always feels sacred.

The lights are softer. The carols sound sweeter. Even the air seems to hold a quiet expectancy—as though creation itself is pausing, holding its breath, waiting once again for heaven to touch earth.

But if you or I had been there on that first Christmas night, we might not have noticed anything special at all.

No palace stood lit on the horizon.

No trumpets announced the birth of a royal son.

Just a weary couple, far from home, finding shelter where animals slept.

Just the cry of a newborn wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

And yet, on that ordinary night, heaven broke open.

Because the King had come—

but not in power and prestige,

not in wealth or glory—

He came in humility.

1. A Night Like No Other (Luke 2:8–14)

Luke tells us that in that same region, there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherds were the last people you'd expect to hear from heaven. They were the night-shift workers of ancient Israel—rough around the edges, often overlooked, and sometimes mistrusted.

But that night, they were chosen to receive the royal birth announcement.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them—and they were terrified.

You can imagine it: the sky splitting open with light brighter than the sun.

But the angel speaks peace into their fear:

“Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

What a message! Not just “a child is born,” but *a Savior, Christ the Lord*.

And not just for the powerful or the religious elite—but *for you*, the angel says.

Then comes the sign:

“You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

A manger?

A feeding trough for animals?

That’s where heaven points when it wants us to find God?

Yes. Because this is how the King chooses to come—
in humility, in poverty, in the ordinary.

The glory of God wrapped in weakness.

The infinite contained in an infant.

And suddenly the night sky explodes with praise—
a multitude of angels singing,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

A night like no other indeed.

The shepherds had seen the light of heaven pierce the darkness of earth.

And that same light still shines for us tonight.

Truth #1: God’s glory often comes where we least expect it—hidden in humility.

2. The Shepherds’ Response (Luke 2:15–17)

As soon as the angels left, the shepherds looked at one another and said,

“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

They didn’t sit around debating what they saw or how it fit into their schedules.

They didn’t wait for morning.

They went—with haste—running through the dark toward the little town of Bethlehem.

And when they arrived, they found exactly what God had promised:

Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Think about that. The same glory that filled the heavens now lay wrapped in cloth and resting in straw.

The shepherds kneel. They look. They believe.

And having seen the Savior, they can’t keep it to themselves.

Luke tells us:

“They made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.”

And everyone who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

That’s what faith does.

Faith receives—and then faith proclaims.

The shepherds' hearts were so full of joy that it overflowed into witness.
They had to tell others what they had seen and heard.

They went back to their flocks glorifying and praising God.
Same hills, same sheep, same jobs—but they were not the same men.
They had seen the face of their Savior.

Truth #2: Faith that receives also proclaims. The good news of the King's arrival is too wonderful to keep silent.

[Illustration]

Faith can be described as “the joyful contagion of grace.”
When you've seen what God has done—when you've heard His promises fulfilled—you can't help but share it.
It's like the light that will spread from one candle to another tonight as we prepare to sing Silent Night; it multiplies as it's shared.

3. The Word Made Flesh (John 1:14; Isaiah 9:6–7; Micah 5:2)

John's Gospel gives us the deeper meaning of what happened that night:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The baby in the manger is the eternal Word who spoke creation into being.
The hands that formed the stars now curl around His mother's finger.
The voice that thundered at Sinai now coos softly in a stable.

Isaiah had prophesied long before:

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given...
and the government shall be upon His shoulder...
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Micah had said the ruler would come from Bethlehem—small among the clans of Judah—yet from ancient days, from eternity itself.

And so He came.

The King who rules all creation was born into obscurity.
The One who commands angels laid aside His glory to dwell among sinners.
The Word became flesh—and in that flesh, He came to save us.

You see, the humility of Christmas points forward to the humility of the cross.
From the manger to the cross to the empty tomb—the pattern is the same:
Glory hidden in humility.
Power made perfect in weakness.
Grace made visible in the flesh of Jesus Christ.

Truth #3: The King's humility is the shape of His kingdom—and the pattern for our lives.

Application – Living in the Light of the King's Arrival

So what does this mean for us tonight?

1. Worship.

Like the shepherds, come and see.

Bow in wonder before the Savior who came *for you*.

Let your heart kneel at the manger and adore the humility of God.

2. Witness.

Go and tell.

The story of Christmas is meant to be shared—especially in a world longing for peace and hope.

Let your words and your actions declare: “Christ is born! The King has come!”

3. Walk in Humility.

The King who stooped low calls us to live low—to serve, to forgive, to love.

His kingdom is not of pride or power, but of mercy and meekness.

The same humility that marked His birth is meant to shape our lives.

Conclusion – Behold Your King

Tonight, the same mystery that drew the shepherds through the dark draws us too.

They came trembling and left rejoicing.

They came from fields of darkness and returned with hearts full of light.

And so do we.

“Great indeed is the mystery that drew the shepherds through the dark—surprise, fright, and then joy that exceeded all anticipation. Behold your King's arrival, rich with grace on grace.”

The King has come.

Not to be served, but to serve.

Not to reign from a throne, but from a cross.

Not to demand our loyalty, but to give us His love.

And He still comes tonight—through His Word, through His Supper, through His Spirit—to dwell among His people.

So lift your eyes to the manger, and see the glory of God wrapped in humility.

See the love of God made visible in flesh and blood.

See your Savior—Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

Amen.