

**Post Tenebras, Lux
The Light Radiates Joy**

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Todd Dugard // December 9-10, 2017

When is the last time you experienced the Joy of the Lord? What did God do?

Dig In

When the Light, Jesus, radiates joy in me, it is... Joy in all circumstances (2:1-7)

- *Life is full of mundane circumstances, like filling out a mandatory census report.* What other circumstances in your life could be described as mundane? Why don't we regularly receive joy from these things?
- *Life brings us disappointments, especially through our relationships. Mary and Joseph probably received much criticism from close people about the news of the unexpected pregnancy but they rose above it with joy and carried on.* How is pride linked to our sense of disappointment in others? How does joy help?
- Why does humbling our view of ourselves, to see ourselves like God's servants, open the door to experiencing more of God's joy through our relationships?

... Joy in believing the promises (2:8-14)

- *Shepherds were not part of the high echelon of society yet God sent angels to them proclaiming the birth of Jesus.* What does this let us know about how much God honours those who will believe he does what he promises to do?
- *The shepherds weren't just working in the fields. They were waiting on God to fulfill his promise.* What Biblical promise(s) are you waiting to see God fulfill? Does the possibility of that joy affect your daily life?

... Joy in obeying God's Word (2:15)

- God spoke directly to the shepherds. Does this surprise you in any way? How does God speak to us in other ways? Why does he communicate with us at all?
- Has God spoken to you directly about something he's doing in your life? What has he shown you about it? Are you responding to his word decisively?

... Joy in seeing God at work (2:16)

- *Luke describes the shepherds as moving with "haste" (ESV).* Why might joy find expression through haste? How does a slow response to look into what God is doing indicate a lack of Joy for seeing his work?

... Joy in sharing the light with others (2:17-20)

- *Joy from God can't be hidden, it bursts out!* Are you trying to hide yours? Why? How can you share it?

Break Out!

Rate your current sense of joy in the Lord as either none, low, or high. Share reasons for that and pray for more joy to come.

