

Week 3 [12/18]: Expect God to Show Up

Big Idea: We can't always know when God will show up, but we can know that He will show up.

Luke 2:1-20

The story of angels coming to shepherds to proclaim salvation has come at last. The power of this story is that on a normal night when nothing new, fantastic, or amazing is happening God breaks onto the scene with an awesome proclamation. We can't always know when God is going to show up and do something, but we can be faithful in the waiting. We can live our lives and do our jobs knowing that God sees, and God knows every detail of our existence. He intends to do the unexpected. Are you expecting it?

We need to live in a way that both anticipates and expects God to work and do what only He can do.

I doubt that the shepherds actually expected God to show up that night! It had been 400 years since He had last "visited" the Jewish people! I believe it more likely that they, and all their Jewish brothers and sisters, wanted to believe that He would show up some time, (after all He had promised He would), and that He would save His people (and ALL people, if they had only understood the prophecies as we do today with the advantage of hindsight)!

- 1) Do you know His promises? Which ones mean the most and are the easiest for you to remember? Do you think we might be confused about some of His promises?
- 2) Do you believe He will honor His promises?

Let's discuss whether or not it has been 2000 years since He last visited us! Surely He would interfere if He really cared the mess the world is in.

- 1) Are we guilty of thinking His promise to do everything for good for those of us who love Him isn't always binding upon Him, that He doesn't always hear us or know when we are needing Him to work a small miracle to "fix" our situation?
- 2) Do we find ourselves wondering if He is really going to come again and rescue us from the chaos of this world, or if we really are just on our own here? He wound the world up and stepped back to see what the result might be.

A recurring theme for me is to "live like I were dying!" This week's sermon suggests to me the better statement for a Believer would be to "live like He is constantly carrying us, constantly walking beside us, continually working to bring the best to us for the Kingdom!" After all, that was His promise!

- 1) Would your minute-by-minute actions, your day-to-day decisions be somehow different if you knew confidently that He was watching, participating in our every decision working for our good in every situation and every decision.
- 2) Shouldn't our belief generate the "works we were created for."

life group study guide

