



SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE

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Thursday, December 24, 2020

Scripture: Luke 2:8-15

TITLE: You are Not Overlooked

Has there ever been a time when someone recognized you or noticed you, but it was completely unexpected? Has there ever been a time when you were chosen for something, but it wasn't because of what you've done, but just because someone chose you?

When I was a kid, Nickelodeon was really the only cable channel for kids. And they had games like Nick Arcade, and Guts, and others like it. They did a national tour, where they brought the games to audiences. Well, they came to Lincoln, NE, where I got to sit in the front row. And when it was time to play a game on Nick Arcade, I threw up my hand, and Michael O' Malley pointed to me, and I ran up on the stage. You see, I was a nobody. I was probably disheveled, alone, no reason to pick me. But he looked out, he saw me, and he said, "I choose you".

Today, if you are feeling insignificant and overlooked, I have to share with you the most amazing story from Luke 2. Listen to this:

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2:8-15, NLT)

This is such a familiar story, isn't it? The birth of the Messiah occurred. Jesus had been born, and to whom does God declare the news? Is it Fox News? Is it CNN? Is it to the Kings and Queens throughout the world? Is it the up and comers? Not even close. The news of the Messiah went to a bunch of shepherds.

Now, most of us that live in cities, or even in a rural setting, may not be farmers, so shepherds don't really resonate with us today. The shepherds were second class citizens. They were misfits. They were down and outers. They smelled. They looked horrible. They didn't have much money. They were neglected and overlooked.

But not by God.

You see, Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus said, "The healthy don't need a doctor, but the sick do." God is not impressed with our resumes. God is not impressed with our things. God loves the humble. He loves a contrite heart.

Today, if you feel down and out, or overlooked, remember that God sees you. It doesn't matter if you're surrounded by 100 people on this day, or nobody, because you are not alone - God is with you. God sees you. And He loves you just as you are.

When God sent the angels to the shepherds, they declared, "Peace on Earth, to those with whom God is pleased." Peace means much more than just a sense of calm in the battles of life. Peace, or *Shalom*, means well-being, health, prosperity, security, soundness, and completeness.

My challenge for you today, is remember that God sees you. He loves you. And because He chose you, like He chose those shepherds, He gives you peace – *Shalom*.

Today, embrace that peace and praise His name.