

Pastor Todd Schlechty Shepherds Shine

Christmas Eve, 2018 Luke 2:8-20

John 1:4-5 *In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (NRS)*

Matthew 5:14-16 *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (NRS)*

**Three Truths About the Light of Christmas:**

**I. It’s okay to be scared \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Luke 2:8-14 *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there appeared 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 men with whom He is pleased."*

**II. To know the light you have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Luke 2:15-18 *When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.*

**III. To shine the light you have to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Luke 2:19-20 *But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

**Point:** 

**Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!**

What to do?

1. Look for the light. No matter how dark or difficult your life may seem at the moment, there is always a light from God. It might be hard to see in the moment. Look for it. (Pick up a Bible appropriate for your age and read the Christmas story. Pray. Ask God to shine His light on you.)
2. Pursue the light. When you see the first glimmer of God’s light, go after it. Look for more. Investigate. (Make a decision to get involved in a small group, or a Bible reading plan, or church in the new year. Find a place where you can surround yourself with God’s light.)
3. Shine the light. Don’t be afraid to be the light for someone else. Shine the light in other people’s dark places. (Tell your story. Look for opportunities to treat people with kindness, love and grace. Invite someone to join you at church, or a small group, or for a conversation about Spiritual things.)

If you’d like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email *pastortodd@thevineva.org* to set up an appointment.