

# The Story of Joy

Luke 2:8-20

Joy is what everyone wants for the holidays.

## Joy is God's gift which invades the ordinary

Psalm 16:11 "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."

## Joy is God's gift which Invades our personal darkness (vs.8-10)

Psalm 40:1-3 "I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. [2] He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. [3] He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the Lord."

Psalm 40:4 "Oh the joys of those who trust the Lord..."

## Emotional Darkness of the Shepherds ...

They were despised  
They were considered to be thieves  
Their word was not accepted in a court of law  
They were uneducated  
They were excluded from religious ceremonies

## Joy is God's gift that instills new hope (vs. 10-20)

This passage teaches us about 4 things that God's joy brings...

Restoration for tarnished Reputations  
Reformation for those who are Rebellious  
Reliability for the Mistrusted  
Purpose for the Ordinary

## Joy is God's gift which takes away fear (vs.10)

Psalm 27:1-3 "The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord protects me from danger— so why should I tremble? [2] When evil people come to destroy me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. [3] Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will know no fear. Even if they attack me, I remain confident."

Joy becomes God's gift for sharing...when His story becomes your story