



sermon notes

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To Everyone on the Fringe

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Luke 1:46-48 (NLT)

Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

FYI: Out of all the Gospels it is Luke who points to Jesus' concern for those people who live on the fringe of society.

In first century Israel, the Hebrew phrase for people living on the fringe of society was

AM HA'ARETZ = _____

Historical Context

- 586BC, the Babylonian army stormed Jerusalem deporting thousands of citizens in captivity. Those who escaped deportation and remained intermarried with non-Jews. They were called _____. Eventually, the definition expanded to refer not only to Samaritans but to everybody on the fringe of society – all who lived and acted outside of the norm.

The theme of Luke's Gospel

is that God cares for the marginalized, sinners, and those on the fringe. To those society considers "nobodies," God says, "You are somebody to me."

Luke wrote to the "Somebodies" and the "Nobodies"

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. Luke 1:1-4 (NLT)

- Theophilus – "Theo" = God; "Philo" = love

God chooses a “nobody” named Mary

- The angel Gabriel shows up in Nazareth
- Nazareth is the home of the “Nobodies”
- Sephoris is the home of the “Somebodies”

Nathanael to Philip:

“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” John 1:46 (NIV)

- Mary’s response being chosen by God

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁵¹ He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. ⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

Luke 1:46-48; 51b-53 (NLT)

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)

The Birth

- Nine months pass
- Census ordered
- Joseph and Mary travel 80 miles to Bethlehem
- KATALUMA = _____
- Jesus born in a cave and placed in a manger

God Chooses the “Night-Shift” Shepherds

- Shepherds were AM HA’ARETZ
- Deemed untrustworthy – dishonest
- Unclean
- Marginalized by society – on the fringe - Nobodies
- Yet chosen and invited by God to come see His Son.