

The Lamb of God that Amazes with WONDERS

How you can experience WONDERS as you see him as the LAMB of GOD and as you feed on HIM.

Luke 2:18-19

18 And all who heard it wondered (amazed, astounded) at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. NASB

UNEXPECTED WONDERS – so many – everybody – you all

Many people exp **unexpected** wonders – Eli and Zech; young peasant girl; poor shepherd; king; rich wise people – **everybody**

Show God is **alive** – interested in everyday life

Florida – atheist – make hist – case against Christian having holidays in Christmas and Easter – Passover

Law of discrimination – unfair – atheist – go no holiday

Your honor, how can you dismiss – Christians have ... my client no such days

1. First exp wonders – elderly couple – **hopeless** situation – old – no children

Both **priestly** line – **godly** – not perf - **seek** God

8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. 9 As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary and burn incense in the Lord's presence. 10 While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

One day – his turn **serve** – burn incense – exp **wonders** of Christmas

See miracles – feeding of 5000

11 Zechariah was in the sanctuary when an angel of the Lord appeared, standing to the right of the incense altar. 12 Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear. NLT

Saw – angel – **heard** your prayer – bear a son!

Why does God say do not be weary in well doing?

Luke 1:13 ... the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son! And you are to name him John.

Not ord son – **extraordinary son!** **astound** God always **astound** us with his goodness – peo of world in awe – you yourself **embarrassed**

Eli **enduring** much embarrassment long time – how many – going thru **much in life** – did all the right thing – no **breakthrough** – **give up**

Like Eli – **suddenly** – good news came – keep **servng** with expectation
Never too old to serve – **great purpose**

Not rec of his prayer! – when you pray for others -
Great faith – never give up – midst of hopeless situ
John (Lit.): The LORD is the Gracious Giver

2. Ord **peasant** girl – exp wonders
Virgin birth – why – just show off power?

– studies – baby did receive blood of mo – father determine – blood is divine
redeem – **precious** blood

1 Peter 1:18-20

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but

... redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. NIV

Create – spoke; **Redeem** – **bleed** –

2. **Wonders:** Supernatural healing and health

3. **Joseph** – had to do **registration** in home town – Beth; sometimes, **regulations** – **incon - cause**

Sometimes, feel certain **regulations** inconvenient – God is so big – cause things turn in your favor

Reach Beth - **Disappointed** –

Descendant of greatest king

– no one offer hospitality – hr of greatest need – **no room**

Mary – birth in **dirtiest** place

Deepest hurt – rejection

– divorce; kids not care; boss not appre; friends betray

Why do you think God allows Mary and Joseph experience some measure of rejection?

Mary – birth in **dirtiest** place – not to

purposely make them suffer

They were the first to und – they are rejecting the Chr – Chr was rejected that we may be accepted

4. NEXT exp wonders - poor **shepherds** – good news

Luke 2:8-20

8 That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, 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 terribly frightened, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said.

11 "I bring you **GOOD NEWS** of great joy for everyone! 11 The Savior--yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born!
12 This is how to recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a **manger**, wrapped in strips of cloth!"

The **first** to hear the good news were the shepherds! Why?

Why were the shepherds first to hear Good NEWS?

Pastors first to see?

1 Poor – **became** poor – rich
Poor – **in need** – sick, rel , fear can exp wonders

Not just any poor

2 First to– see Jesus as **sacri lamb** almost immed

1. See Him as the Lamb of God for you and experience WONDERS

One of the closest towns – main **industry**
– supplying sheep for temple sacri – taking care of sheep – used to bleeding the best and spotless lamb

You been taking care of scri lamb – now see not just shadow – reality

First to see pict – Jesus is the lamb of God

Heb 9:12

12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. NIV

Create – spoke; **Redeem** – bleed

Isa 53:5-6

Jesus **only** person born to die!

Look at **manger**

Note – typical manger – shaped like stone

coffin – typical of its days

Also – compare the **gdn tomb**

Baby **wrapped** – exactly like a dead body for burial

What does God focus on when you bring the sacrificial lamb?

Christ – **sin offering** – **examine** lamb not offender - (only reqd: **come** with the lamb) – lay hand

Lamb – priest examine lamb – not offerer – lamb perf

Lay hand – sins passed – perf passed to offerer

Why such **uncivilised** way – **stone** age

Pict Sin –destructiveness – cancer - eating us alive

Surely die – walking – like a – **zombie** - health slowly degen, **rel**, think enjoying life - **slave**

OT – 7 times - 120%

OT – soln – kill – Korah – earth open up – flood

Pay back – 120%

Jesus - took what we **deserve** - Jesus paid **inf** more– receive **much** more – **Rom 5**
– thief suppose to pay in OT 7 times more – Jesus paid infinitely more – so receive much more (ROM 5 – 5 times much more)
Christ – what did (the Gospel) – **Ans** to every human need – deepest satis

Today – God takes pleasures – he **sees**

Jesus – lamb – not you the offender

Guilty – R; **sick** – health; **hurt**, broken heart – peace; lost **opport** poor choices – restoration

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others--the armies of heaven--praising God:

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace (shalom: wholeness, health, prosperity) on earth to **all whom God favors.**" NIV

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

18 And all who heard it **wondered** at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. NASB

20 The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the child, just as the angel had said.

Wonder? **Pleasure** in blessing – see Jesus - **Favor** to prosper

1. Feed on Him yourself

Look at the **manger** – place where **sheep** are fed

How do we feed on Jesus?

Jesus didn't come to more **laws** – already perf

Himself – **presence** cause you inc

John 6:35

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. NIV

Feed on Jesus, your supply will always overflow.

Not just finances; life; rel

Oh I fed on the word last week – nutrition does not come by memory – got to feed everyday

5000 – disciples – anxious – see themselves

Isa 26:3

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. NKJV

Peace – shalom – pros in every area

Key: In the the presence of Jesus – see supply – what God can do

The 5000 see themselves – what they have – anxious

See what Jesus see – **if not** – see d what sees

– how **bad** – **mistake** you make; how bad situa

Bef check news – weather – feeling

Thank you Jesus - **Becos** of you – I have

Much more surpassing favor

Econ not source – God is source - chariot

Surround with favor like shield

Some trust in chariot - horses – name of Lord our God

Some money – job – economist says – God holds – **palm** of hand

Feed on Jesus, you will do the extraordinary.

Luke 10:41-42

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." NKJV
Martha – upset – don't you care – leave her alone – Mary chosen **one** thing necessary
Did extraordinary – give perfume – opport to embalm body bef even crucified
When split – smell best fragrance

Wise men – knew someone **unusual** born – come to **worship** – guided by an **unusual star**

Matthew 2:1-11

About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2 "Where is the newborn king? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him."

King – alarm – where – seek the experts of the OT Bible

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

Wise - **seek** the word

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

NIV

God can turn – ord into **extraordinary**

9 ... the wise men went their way. Once again the star appeared to them, guiding them to Bethlehem.

It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

Went on – **star** appeared again – guided them Bethlehem – house where Jesus was

11 They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
NLT

House? Most lightly – **news** spread by shepherds – they welcomed into home

– just when **think best** - realise God is about to bless them much more

Coming age – unprecedented way – just when think – arrived – God not want settle in mediocrity – much more

Joseph and Mary were both **descendants** of the king; yet there was **no room** for them in their own land. Now **because** of Jesus, they received treasures!

You may have **great connections** – great **background** – it does not mean – all the favor; but **in Christ** – much more surpassing favor

Key? Work? Presence - Jesus

Joseph and Mary were both descendants of the king; yet there was no room for them in their own land. Now because of Jesus, they received treasures!