

Experiencing Wonder

Luke 2:8-35

1. Wonder has our address.

- For the Shepherds, wonder was an **unexpected surprise**.

 Luke 2:8–10 (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.”

- For Simeon, wonder was an **anticipated promise**.

 Luke 2:25–26 (NIV) “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

2. Wonder is deeply personal.

- The Shepherds found wonder in a **personal invitation**.

 Luke 2:11–16 (NIV) “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.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

- Simeon found wonder in a **personal encounter**.

 Luke 2:27–29 (NIV) “Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.”

3. Wonder is packaged differently.

- The Shepherds show us that wonder comes **from unbelievable places**.

 Luke 2:17–18 (NIV) “When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

- Simeon shows us that wonder comes **at unexpected times**.

 Luke 2:30–33 (NIV) “For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about Him.”

4. Wonder will last past Christmas.

- The Shepherds show that wonder **goes with us wherever we go**.

 Luke 2:19–20 (NIV) “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

- Simeon shows that wonder **matters long after we’re gone**.

 Luke 2:34–35 (NIV) “Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”



Do you ever feel invisible? Do you sometimes wonder if what was promised will ever show up? Have you encountered God in a personal way? In what ways has God surprised you? How do the stories we looked at today help you see your worth to God? What are you wondering about? Are you at peace? Who will you invite to church this Christmas?