

Christmas Interruptions – The Shepherds

Sermon Discussion Guide

Scripture: Luke 2:8–20

Opening Questions

- When you look back on your life, can you think of an unplanned interruption that ended up shaping you in a significant way? What changed because of it?
- Why do you think the moments we plan the least often impact us the most?
- When you hear the phrase “*God’s interruptions*,” what comes to mind?

Discussion Questions

- Nate said, “*God’s interruptions don’t just reorder our plans; they refocus our priorities.*” What does that mean in your own words?
- Read Luke 2:8–20
- Why do you think God chose shepherds (people on the margins of society) to receive the first announcement of Jesus’ birth?
- What does the shepherds’ story reveal about who God invites into His work?
- Looking at David, Daniel, and Esther, what do you notice about how God interrupts ordinary lives throughout Scripture?
- In each of those stories, what shifted when God interrupted their plans?
- The shepherds had every reason to stay in the fields. Why do you think they chose to go to Bethlehem instead?
- The sermon says excuses don’t disqualify us from Jesus, they explain our distance from Him. How have you seen that play out in your own life or in others?
- Which of the four excuses resonates most with you right now: *not important enough, not clean enough, not religious enough, or too busy*? Explain.
- What do the shepherds’ actions after meeting Jesus reveal about what happens when someone truly encounters Him?

Application & Reflection Questions

- What excuse do you most often use when God interrupts your routine or invites you to take a step of faith?

- What might it look like for you to refocus your priorities instead of protecting your plans this season?
- The shepherds returned to their normal lives glorifying and praising God. What would it look like for you to return to your everyday routines with renewed purpose and refocused priorities?
- Who is one person God may be prompting you to invite, pray for, or share your story with this Christmas?
- What is one tangible step you can take this week to move toward Jesus rather than letting an excuse hold you back?