

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Good News of Great Joy

Speaker: Jan Brauer

Date: December 15, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful sermon on the third Sunday of Advent, Jan Brauer explored the angel's proclamation of "good news of great joy" and its implications for our lives today. She emphasized how encountering Jesus transforms us and calls us to share His good news with others.

1. The Nature of the Good News:

Jan discussed how Jesus defined His mission through the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you understand Jesus' mission as described in Luke 4:16-20?
2. In what ways have you experienced Jesus' good news in your own life?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was announcing His ministry in His hometown synagogue.
- Theological Significance: This passage connects Jesus' ministry to ancient prophecy and God's redemptive plan.

- Application: We should understand the comprehensive nature of Jesus' good news for all aspects of life.

2. The Shepherds' Response:

Jan highlighted how the shepherds responded to the angelic announcement with immediate action.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from the shepherds' eager response to seek Jesus?
2. How has encountering Jesus changed your priorities and actions?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 2:15-16 - "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Shepherds were among the lowest social classes yet received this divine announcement.
- Theological Significance: God's good news is accessible to all, regardless of social status.
- Application: We should respond to God's revelation with immediate and enthusiastic action.

3. Living on Mission:

Jan emphasized how encountering Jesus leads to transformation and mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does living "on mission" look like in your daily life?

2. How can we effectively share the good news in our current cultural context?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 2:17-20 - "After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: The shepherds became the first evangelists of the gospel.
- Theological Significance: Encountering Jesus naturally leads to sharing the good news with others.
- Application: We are called to share our experience of Jesus' good news through both words and actions.

Conclusion:

Jan Brauer's message reminded us that the good news of Jesus' coming brings great joy and transformation, calling us to share this news with others through both proclamation and service.

Reflection Questions:

1. What aspect of Jesus' good news do you most need to experience this Christmas season?
2. How has encountering Jesus changed your life, and how can you share that with others?
3. What specific ways can you live "on mission" in your daily life in 2024?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the good news of great joy that came through Jesus. Help us to fully embrace and experience your transforming presence in our lives. Give us courage and wisdom to share this good news with others through both our words and actions. May we live on mission for you in every aspect of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"Good News of Great Joy," East Hill Church, 12/15/2024. Delivered by Jan Brauer.

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Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.