



He is Here
“Spread the Word”
Luke 2:15-20
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I. Luke 2:15-20 - How the shepherds response provides a framework for being 'Missional.'

1. Basis for Response: Luke 2:14 - The "Gospel" or Good news was Angelically , Divinely Proclaimed.
2. This “Gospel” had deep roots... it was a continuation and additional clarity of Promise begun in Gen 3:15., and expanded upon to Abraham in Gen. 12: 1-3, to Moses and Israel in Ex. 19:1-6, to David in 2 Sam. 7: 1-29, and through a variety of prophets this moment was predicted.
 - Luke 2:15,16 - Shepherd response based on faith, fulfilled in action.
 - Luke 2:17a - action confirmed by personal experience, deepened by perfect confirmation of all Divinely spoken.
 - Luke 2:17 b - “They made known abroad ...” 2:18 “ all who heard it wondered...”
 - Luke 2:20 - They used their vocation, station in life at time of calling as a basis for proclamation.
 - Luke 2:19 - clue to deeply letting Word of God transform us in Mary’s Response. Romans 12:1-2

II. Will you join us in 2010 and beyond to reshape and align all we at NLC are about to ‘make known abroad’ the Glory of this Good News?

It will be an energizing life change, but we are locked in some old habits and paradigms that kill our ability to experience this joy, so...

III. The “Missional” call must transform us , and our church, on all levels ...

3. Our Ministries must be evaluated and aligned with the outward call and purpose for our salvation.
2. Our Families must be established deeply in the ‘basics’ or Foundational Principles of God’s design within a Missional Context. This provides ‘margin’...
 1. Individually, each of us must grasp the purpose of our existence, our place in God’s Design, the enormity of Love and meaning our lives can experience as we align with what we were created for before the foundations of earth were placed.
 - Ourselves, our families, and our Churches are not ‘mature’ in a NT sense until this outward calling permeates all we do.
 - We must begin with #1... but we, myself included, usually like to hide in discussions on #3 to avoid doing it... There is no shortcut.
 - We have created a false idea that being missional is primarily ‘somewhere else’ and ‘for someone else’ and only through ‘large events and programs’.
 - We must return to the simplicity of NT ‘missions’ which was built upon a foundational orientation that each individual and family would cultivate the natural relationships embedded within our 3 primary spheres of relationships of neighborhood, vocation/work, and avocation/interests.
 - That we would look for and ‘zealously’ grasp opportunities within these relations to ‘meet pressing needs’ Tit. 3:8 & 14, to engage others through ‘good works prepared beforehand for us to do’ Eph. 2: 10. That we would then ‘be ready to give a response’ Col. 4:2-6, 1 Pet. 3:8-17.

IV. Recommended reading for doubters, required reading for those who are serious in joining us and assisting us –

- *“The Radical Reformation: Reaching Out Without Selling Out”*, M. Driscoll;
- *“The Church of Irresistible Influence”* Lewis/Wilkins;
- *“The Forgotten Ways; Reactivating the Missional Church”*, A. Hirsch;
- *“Participating in the mission of the Church: 1st Principles of Community Purpose”*, J. Reed.