

ADVENT #3 - GOSPEL FOR THE SHEPHERDS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LUKE 2

- 1 In the first few verses of Luke 1, what are some clues that the historian Luke is trying to be painfully accurate with his political and historical facts?

 Why do you think he mentions Roman emperors and governors, people of power?

- 2 In Luke 2:4-7, what new things do we learn about Joseph and Mary?

 Put yourself in the drama. How would you feel, trudging over a hundred miles because some occupation government officials wanted you to register so they could tax you and, if you are a man, possibly draft you into their army?

 Look again at verse 7. What different emotions might Joseph and Mary have experienced?

- 3 Shepherds were poor, lower-class people in their society, despised by religious Jews because their work kept them away from many religious activities. Looking at Luke 2:8-14, why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first ones to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus?

- 4 In Luke 2:10, the angel talks about “good news of great joy for all people.” Look carefully at the three ways Jesus is described in verse 11. What are they?

 What would each of these have meant for poor Jewish shepherds under Roman occupation in the first century?

 Take time to ponder what each description means to us today. Why is this announcement by the angel good news?

- 5 Notice the contrast between these majestic titles for Jesus and the poor situation into which he was born in Luke 2:6-7. Why do you think Luke emphasizes this contrast?

