



Week 4

## The Shepherds' Big Surprise

Luke 2:8-20

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

1. A Shepherds guide to a \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

A. Consistency in the \_\_\_\_\_ promises a great \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 25:20-22

*The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' <sup>21</sup>His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' <sup>22</sup>The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'*

B. Living with spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will keep you from missing your next close encounter.

C. Close encounters are for those who travel \_\_\_\_\_ enough to \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Shepherds remind us that close encounters are for \_\_\_\_\_, not just the \_\_\_\_\_ ones.

E. Shepherds remind us that our past \_\_\_\_\_ or present \_\_\_\_\_ don't leave us as a second class citizens in the kingdom.

I must be willing to say no to the good in order to say yes to the best.

I Peter 2:9

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

F. Shepherds were not chosen because of \_\_\_\_\_ but because of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

I John 3:1-3

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

G. A true close encounter starts with being \_\_\_\_\_ and ends with you being the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A sheep's guide to picking a \_\_\_\_\_.

A. You will never seek a \_\_\_\_\_ until you realize that you are the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. A good shepherd provides \_\_\_\_\_ (Shepherds slept in the pen), \_\_\_\_\_, and pasture (freedom).

John 10:3-5

*The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

John 10:26-28

*but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*