

**Sunday, December 2, 2018**

**Generous Hope | Dave Solmes**

TEXT: LUKE 2

*"...there was the baby, lying in the manger. 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..." (Luke 2.16-17)*

If we were pressed to think of one word to sum up the entire Christian story, one word that best defines the God of the Bible as seen through the central figure of Jesus, it would be difficult to think of a better word **than generous**.

QUESTION: is the word "generous" an appropriate word to describe God?

The sight and sounds of these angels caught the shepherd's attention. Perhaps the illumination they experienced was more than of the dark night sky. Perhaps the shepherds need was being illuminated. Perhaps the night light that was shining and was shining on their dark soul.

You really don't know how dark it is until a light shines .. This is kinda what is happening. Sometimes you don't know your missing something until someone tells you . This is what was happening in the shepherds lives.

Let's keep looking closely at WHAT the angels spoke .... **"you will find the baby"**

1. To "find" means .. something you have been missing is needing to be found
2. The truest definition of the word find is "experience". It references the end of a search. The end of a longing in a heart. What you have been looking for exists and is found in Jesus.

3. The word experience . this has a future tense .. it about finding something they have never had before ... it is about discovering a new future.

As we begin our Christmas pilgrimage be reminded that Christmas is something that happened for us. Christmas is something that happened to us.

**QUESTION:** Is it really true? Can we really trust that God is generous? Do we dare imagine a world - a world Jesus seemed to envision - in which we might learn to be generous with one another?

**QUESTION:** Are there are areas in your life that need the light to shine. Any areas that need cleaning up. Let the light shine brightly.

Christmas & restoration

Christmas & reconciliation,

Christmas & healing

Christmas & help

Christmas & forgiveness

Christmas & discovery

Christmas & astonishment will be our experience!

May this Christmas we come and experience how our future can be so different than our past.