

Luke 2: 6 – 15

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

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.'

Everyone loves to see a baby, but shepherds wouldn't normally rush away from looking after their sheep to see a baby born to a couple of complete strangers.

What was so special about this baby?

What was he called ?

Jesus = God saves

Angel told the shepherds He would be a SAVIOUR

What is a "Saviour" ?

Think of:



- fireman saving someone,



- life-boat



- ambulance,

These are all kinds of rescuer or “saviour” but what did the shepherds need saving from ?
Not fire, nor drowning, or an accident

There are other kinds of saviour who save us but not in an immediate emergency:



e.g. a doctor,

or *Christians Against Poverty* saving people from unmanageable debts.

Shepherds didn't have a serious illness, or a credit card, so what did they need saving from?

Joseph told to name the baby “Jesus”, *because he would save his people from their sins*

What is sin ?

It's a kind of **I** disease

S I N

It's a disease where I can't help putting **I** at the centre, being self-centred.

It's a very serious disease. If you have it, it will eventually kill you – that's why we all die

It causes all the sadness and misery in our world today

The **bad news** is that whether we know it or not we all have it

But the **Good News of great joy** is that this baby came to save us from it.

Like a doctor who says you have a very serious illness but I can get you completely better – however you have to do exactly what I say.

That is why we need to remember that, just as the angels also told the shepherds, Jesus not just Saviour, but **CHRIST THE LORD**

This baby is not just a baby but he is our Saviour who we need to listen to

He is