

Twass The Night before Christmas Luke 2: 6-20

Intro: Clement C. Moore “Twass the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.”

text: Luke gives a different version with a decidedly different message. The biblical message of Christmas is not that St Nicholas is coming but that CHRIST HAS COME!

*******There was surprise! On the night before the first Christmas – a surprise that God’s Son would be born under the shadow of scandal! Born of a virgin. Divine intervention!**

Surprise that God’s Son would be born in a barn. Symbolizes His identity with the most common among us.

Surprise that the announcement of the birth of God's Son would be given to shepherds - they were the only ones who would have accepted the announcement for what it was.

Max Lucado – “Had the angels gone to the theologians, they would first consult their commentaries.

Had they gone to the elite, they would have looked around to see if anyone was watching. Had they gone to the successful, they would have first looked at their calendars.

So they went to the shepherds who had no reputations to protect, no ax to grind or no ladder to climb!”

*******There was awe (V.6-9**

ANGELS - - - SHEPHERDS they were terrified-

told all who would listen-

They were amazed at what the shepherds told them

THE FEAR OF THE LORD-

Fear not fright but awe-

Fear is a negative emotion

Awe is positive liberating open mouthed

ILL stand at the edge of a cliff- fear

Stand at the foot of a mountain - awe

**THE GOD OF THE BIBLE, WHO SENT HIS SON ON THAT
FIRST CHRISTMAS, IS A SOVEREIGN GOD WHO HOLDS
THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HAND-OMNIPOTENT-----**

**We cannot stand before Him in an arrogant or
nonchalant way.**

The shepherds felt awe Mary felt awe

*******There was joy**

Message

Jesus brought salvation abundant life

The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God

What is our response to be?????????????