



Part 2: Transforming the Dead End
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One thing you need to know about the shepherds:

They were stuck.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night.
– Luke 2:8

The shepherds had: A reputation as deadbeats

A dead-end job

A future that was dead in the water

How does God deal with stuck people?

He invites them to find another way home.

Luke 2:9-20

⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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How did God get the shepherds unstuck?

He changed their routine (vs. 9)

He changed their theology (vs. 11-12)

He changed their purpose (vs. 15)

He changed their story (vs. 17-18)

He changed their tune (vs. 20)

**God changed how the shepherds viewed themselves,
and that gave them another way home. (vs. 9-20)**

Next Steps

Jesus has included us in all that he offers, and he wants us to include others. Write down the name of at least one unchurched person you can invite to join you at a Christmas Eve service or a family get-together this season. For each name you write down, take home a Christmas Eve invitation (found in the Commons) and make time this week to give invitations to those people. Don't worry about an immediate "yes" from them. Let them take time to decide.

I will invite _____

Small Group Questions



- 1) What was the worst job you have ever had? How long did you do it?
- 2) What are some Christmas traditions that you are enjoying keeping the same year after year?
- 3) What are some ways that you are planning on breaking your routine this Christmas?
- 4) How could you repurpose your Christmas celebration this year? Could you serve? Include someone with nowhere else to go? Strategically do less or more?
- 5) Review the "change order" listed in the outline. What do you need God to change in you so that you can find another way home?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?