

10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." [Luke 2:10-12]

Do you need some good news? Maybe your family is falling apart. Maybe things are difficult at work. Maybe there is a relationship that is on the rocks. Maybe you are dealing with a sudden health issue. Maybe you are just plain and simple, feeling lost or crabby or empty or whatever. You just need something different. You need something to go your way. You need life to be easier. You want to feel joy again (if you can even remember what that is like). Do you want/need some good news? How about some Good News?

Fear not, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people.

When life is not going well, it can seem like everyone else is receiving good news except you. It can feel like everyone else is happy except you. But the joy of Christmas is that the angelic announcement to the shepherds was not to them alone. The Good News the angels proclaimed was for ALL people. The angels did not put a qualifier on their announcement. They did not say the Jesus was born for those who have it all together. Actually, Jesus was born for those who know they do not have it all together; ones who know they are lost and alone and in need of help. So, do you need some Good News?

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Do not get me wrong. Receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior does not mean that all your problems will go away. Being a Christian does not mean that you will be happy 24/7, so much so, that people will wonder what you are on. Being a Christian is not a shield or a bubble protecting you from bad news. Being a Christian means that the bad news of sin is no longer your death sentence. For you see, Jesus being born at Christmas time was God's plan of salvation for you. Christmas is more than Santa Claus and presents, egg nog and lefse, twinkling lights and decorations. Christmas is about Jesus, who was born for you.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

And so, look to the manger and see your Good News. Look to the manger and see your salvation. Look to the manger and know peace. Look to the manger with hope. Look to the manger, for Jesus is the reason for the season; the Good News you truly need. Amen.