



ADVENT SERMON SERIES
VISION

“I Can’t Unsee It”

1. READ

Scripture: Luke 2:4 – 20New International Version (NIV)

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly 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.”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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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Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Luke 2, Luke 1, Genesis 22, Genesis 37 and Esther 4

REFLECT



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This week Pastor Watley continues our series on Advent. He continues with the birth story of Jesus Christ. We are now in chapter 2 of the Gospel according to Luke and Pastor is preaching on insights from the manger. The title for today's sermon is "I Can't Unsee it". The Pastor opens his sermon speaking of a few sermons that he remembers and how they have impacted his life. He speaks of a sermon he heard preached by Bishop John Bryant in 1991 and another sermon he heard preached by Bishop J. Delano Ellis in 2006. Both sermons have stayed with Pastor all of these years because of their impact. Pastor Watley shares that while there are millions of books in the world, the Bible is different and it stays out because once he receives a life-changing Word you can't "unsee it".



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This is how Pastor felt in preparation for the sermon this week when he read the story of both Zechariah and Elizabeth as well as Joseph and Mary. An angel came to visit them both with the news of a miracle child that would change the world. However, Zechariah's response wasn't the same as Mary's response.

In the sermon, Pastor explains the stories and shares that you have 2 people, 2 angelic visitations with 2 revelations of supernatural birth and supernatural purpose. However, only 1 person says let it be according to your Word God. The question is how can that be and which person are you? Are you Zechariah or Mary? The Bible is clear that for neither couple, did the news from the angel make sense, but Pastor shares that it is the same with us. God will share things with us that do not make sense but we need to trust His Word over what we think. Pastor shares several stories from the Bible to help us see this point:

- Abraham was called the father of many nations in his old age (Genesis 22).
- Joseph is told he will be the ruler of many but has to go from the pit to the palace (Genesis 37).
- Esther, seeing that she needed to stand up for her people and the cost could be death (Esther 4).

There is also the story of the shepherds who were told in Luke 2:10–12 that they would find Jesus in a manger. The one that is the savior of the world will be found in a place for animals. Pastor says that on our way to God's purpose, we will all have some "manger moments." These manger moments as Pastor shares, lead us to understand that "contradictions and confirmations are opposite sides of the same faith coin." What was a contradiction for Joseph and Mary was a confirmation for the shepherds looking for Jesus. Once the shepherds saw Jesus in the manger, they could not unsee what God was doing and how God was going to use Jesus to save the world. Our Christian life is made up of contradictions that can be seen as confirmations if we practice them by faith.



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1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï **What do you think Elizabeth thought about the way Zechariah responded to the angel ?**
- ï **How do you think Mary felt about having to give birth to Jesus in a manger?**

Discussion Questions

- ï **What are some manger moments you have had in your life?**
- ï **What contradictions can you view as confirmation this week?**