

The Christmas Story



St. Luke — Chapters I and II

And the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not Mary, for thou hast found favour with God

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus.



He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be?



And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar-Augustus, that all the world should be taxed

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

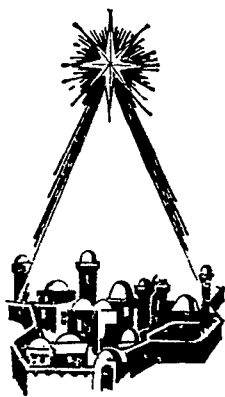


And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Get Important Publications

The 1972 Agronomy Guide and the 1972 Farmer's Tax Guide are off the press and available to any farmer in Pennsylvania. These are two very important publications for any farmer and we urge all farmers to get their copies soon. The Farmer's Tax Guide will be very important in reporting the 1971 income tax return. Due to numerous tax changes, this helpful guide put out by the Internal Revenue Service should be of value to any farmer or accountant who is making out income tax reports. The Agronomy Guide is published by the Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University and has been recognized as one of the very good publications covering all types of farm crops. These are available at any Extension Office in the state without any charge.

To Prepare Farm Show Exhibits

State Farm Show is only two weeks away and all exhibitors are urged to refer to the Premium List for all rules and regulations. The entry deadlines differ between departments and many have already expired. Livestock exhibitors are especially urged to follow the health regulations developed by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Various tests and injections will be necessary by your local veterinarian. Time spent on training and fitting animals and in preparing other exhibits is very important. In many cases time and skill in preparing the exhibit may mean the difference

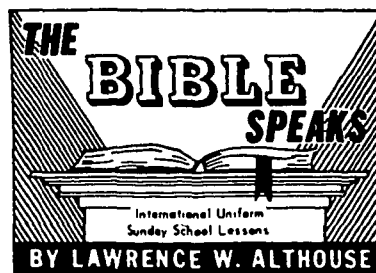
between first place or on down the line. Farm Show is a great educational activity and exhibitors are urged to do their best when entering into any kind of competition.

To Utilize Farm Records

Accurate farm records are a very important part of any farm business. At the end of this year and in looking forward to 1972 it is very important the farm records reveal the most profitable enterprises of the past and give some direction to the future. In addition to showing the profit or loss, they can be used to decide which enterprise in giving the greatest return for capital and labor. If the farm records of the past years have not been satisfactory, then the first of the year would be a good time to change to a different system. There are various services available to help farmers with their farm accounts; our Penn State Farm Account books are available at a nominal charge. The Penn State Agricultural Records Program is available with some costs and is an excellent accounting system. We urge due attention to good farm records at this time of the year.

To Control Parasites in Livestock

Due to the increasing pressure from increasing production costs, every producer should make a special effort to do a good job of farm management. This is especially true this year in the cattle feeding business because the price of replacement cattle are very high. Any animal that is infested with either exterior parasites, such as lice or ringworm, will not do his best; by the same token animals infested with stomach worms will make slow and very costly gains. We urge all producers to be sure they are not supporting any kind of a parasite this winter when they are feeding their livestock. Treatments are not difficult or expensive.



GENIUS OF TEMPTATION

Lesson for December 26, 1971

Background Scripture: Luke 3:15-22; 4:1-15.

God seems to have a strange sense of timing. One moment Jesus is at the River Jordan in a moment of high inspiration and commitment. It was here, following his baptism by John, that "the Holy Spirit descended upon him . . . and a voice came from heaven, 'Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased'" (3:22).



Rev. Althouse

Yet, shortly after, Jesus is in a barren wilderness facing the temptation and trial of his life. What a change! What a glaring contrast! Surely there was something wrong that such a high moment should follow with one so filled with the potentiality for tragedy and failure.

"The higher we climb . . ."

Yet, that's the way it is in life: the higher we climb, the greater the distance we may fall. When we seem to be our strongest, it is often that we are most vulnerable. The Tempter is often strongest just after we have seemed to deal him his worst blow.

Actually, there is a kind of diabolical genius in temptation. It has ways of getting to us that

are so hard to detect. For example, see how the Tempter starts with Jesus. "If you are the Son of God . . ." (4:3). Notice the subtlety: "If . . ." No sooner has Jesus received a divine indication about his identity than the Tempter begins to cast doubt upon it. Are you really sure that you are God's Son?, he is saying. Perhaps you just imagined that voice from heaven!"

This is one of the Tempter's most ingenious weapons: causing us to doubt the reality and validity of our spiritual experiences.

It's such a good cause!

There is ingenuity, too, in the nature of the three temptations. They are temptations to depend on the material, to seek power, to put self first, but the Tempter knows that he cannot appeal to this man on a strictly selfish basis. Jesus is too dedicated for that. Instead he appeals on the basis of what Jesus could do for others if he were to heed him. He could feed the hungry, he could rule the world's kingdoms, he could demonstrate the power of God — and each of these for a noble objective: to successfully bring the kingdom of God to men.

There it is: the ingenuity of an appeal to use base means for noble ends. "Think of all the good you could do!" is ever the Tempter's invitation. But noble ends cannot sanctify ignoble means and Jesus would not be trapped by this clever appeal.

The genius of temptation, then, is that, at its best, it is always so attractive, so reasonable, so deceptively beguiling.

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