

Slide 1



Imagine if you were invited to DINE WITH ROYALTY!

CAROLS 17/12/17

Messy PEOPLE

Luke 2:1-21

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The Queen invites you to join their CHRISTMAS LUNCH

...how would you FEEL?

...wonder if you're UP TO STANDARD?

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'cause THE ROYAL FAMILY:

...so CLEAN

...so STYLISH

...so PROPER

DO I BELONG?

...but fairytales happen

...Kate, just a normal person, *elevated* to royalty.

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And now MEGHAN MARKLE also...

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...will soon be seated for Christmas with the royal family!

...wondering maybe – if she really BELONGS?

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HOW WOULD YOU GO?

...if a place was set for you at the *ROYAL* TABLE?

...or imagine this: them coming to **YOUR** TABLE?

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Maybe you've had the Queen IN Y'LOUNGE ROOM

...through he CHRISTMAS MESSAGE on the telly...

...but imagine

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IF SHE ACTUALLY CAME TO YOUR HOUSE IN PERSON!

...what would you feel?

...FEAR? ...that you don't know the protocols? Catering?

...EMBARRASMENT? how will the bon bon jokes go? Will the those crown paper hats fit her?

...SHAME maybe? Because your HOUSE... Your LIFE... ***IS A MESS?***

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Imagine the Queen trying to navigate your MESSY HOUSE...

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How will her corgis go

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With your filthy dog?

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Messy HOUSE, messy DOG, messy TABLE...

....let alone the *REAL* MESS OF FAMILIES that inevitable surfaces over Christmas lunch...

...the old family fights

...the bad habits.

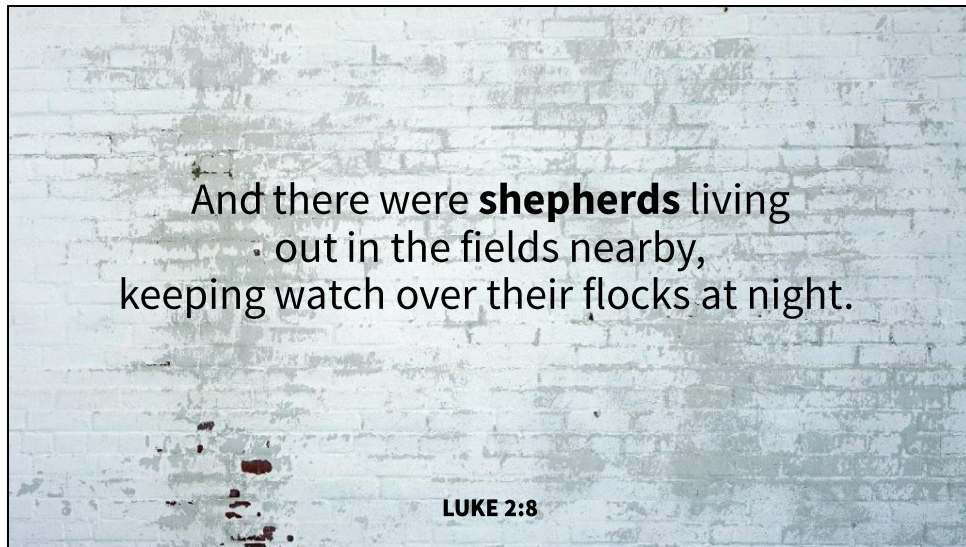
...the dirty laundry.

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Being with royalty at Christmas – the thought is TERRIFYING!

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But it's EXACTLY what we just saw happen for some shepherds

...on the FIRST Christmas night

...the night the KING OF THE WORLD was born

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They're out in the FIELDS... doing what shepherds do

...looking *after their SHEEP*

...minding THEIR OWN *BUSINESS*

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Although when your business is looking after STINKING SHEEP

...*THEIR* business

...really does become ***YOUR*** business

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It gets ***ALL OVER YOU***

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Shepherds back then y'see: they were a *LONG WAY FROM ROYALTY...*

...dirty, stinky, messy, UNDESIRABLE types

Not HIGH PAID sheep station owners

...but low-paid nomads

...rough and tumble characters – NOT MANY FRIENDS in the world

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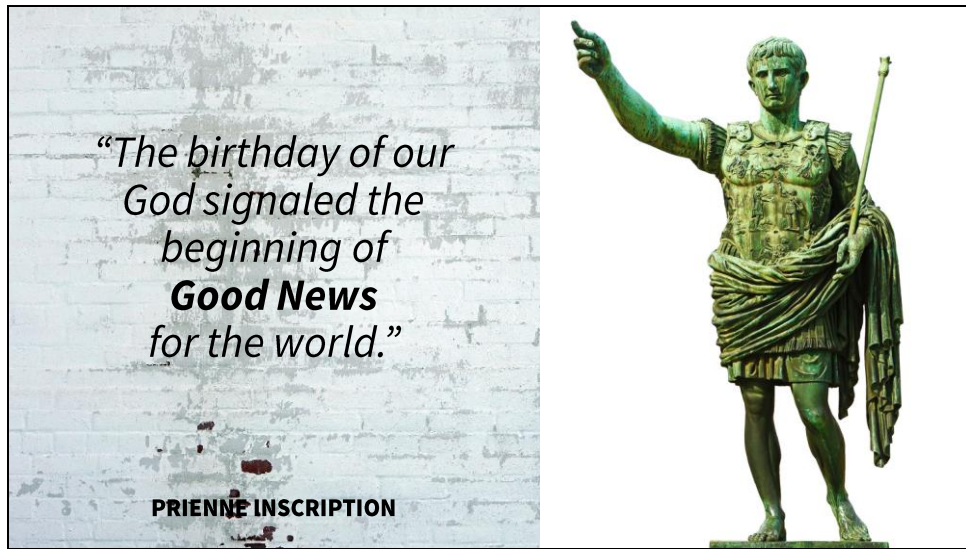


They were about as *FAR FROM ROYALTY* AS YOU COULD GET...

...like CAESAR AUGUSTUS

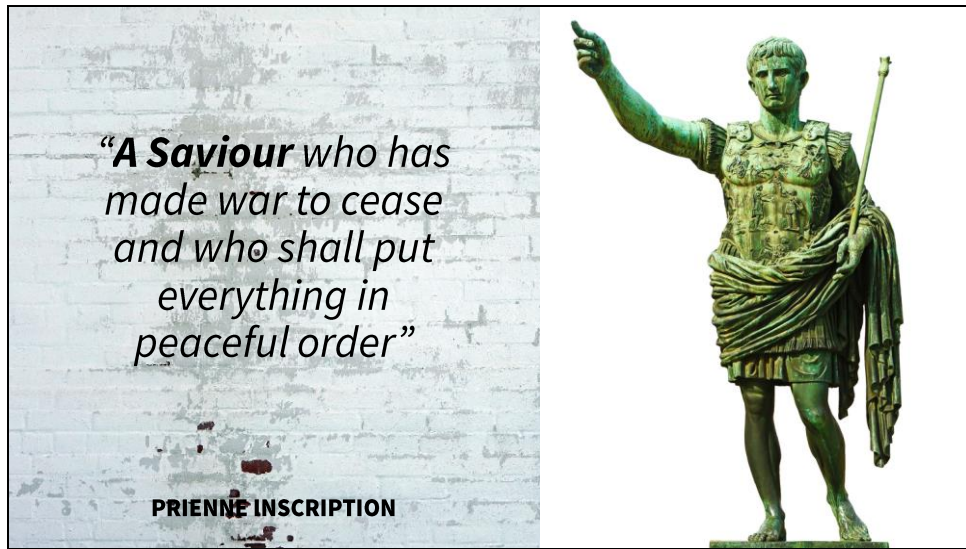
...a guy, people saw as GOD...

An inscription about his RISE TO THE THRONE says:



His birthday "*signalled the beginning of the **GOOD NEWS** for the world*"

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That he was **A SAVIOUR** who ENDED WARS by BRINGING PEACEFUL ORDER...

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So here's these shepherds invited to MEET THE KING!!
...is it THAT sort of king?

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Wondering – ME?

...surely I'm TOO MESSY?

...to step FOOT – *THESE* feet – in royal presence?

And hey!: people who weren't up to scratch when they dined with Caesar...

Well...

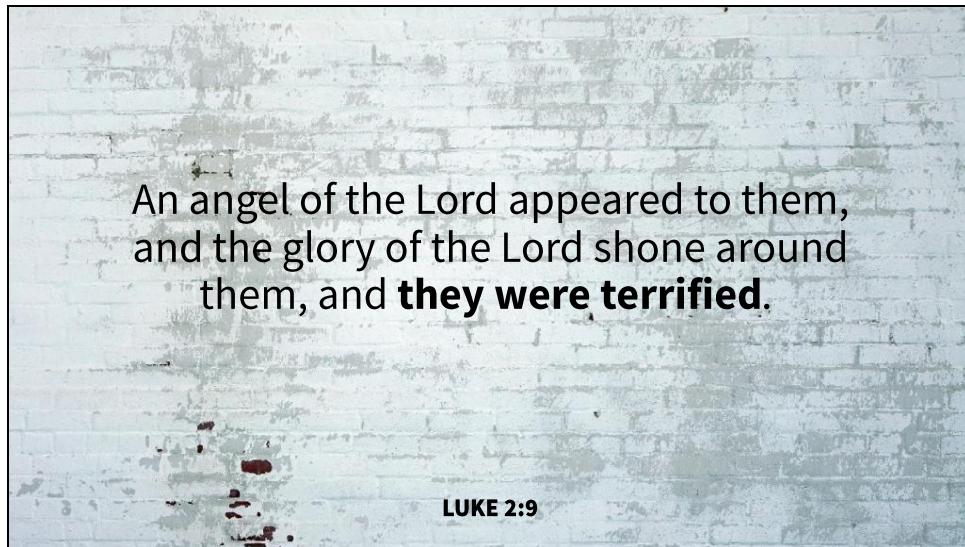
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Things DIDN'T GO WELL FOR THEM...

These guys would be TERRIFIED...

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Which is exactly what we're TOLD.

An ANGEL.

A ROYAL INVITATION.

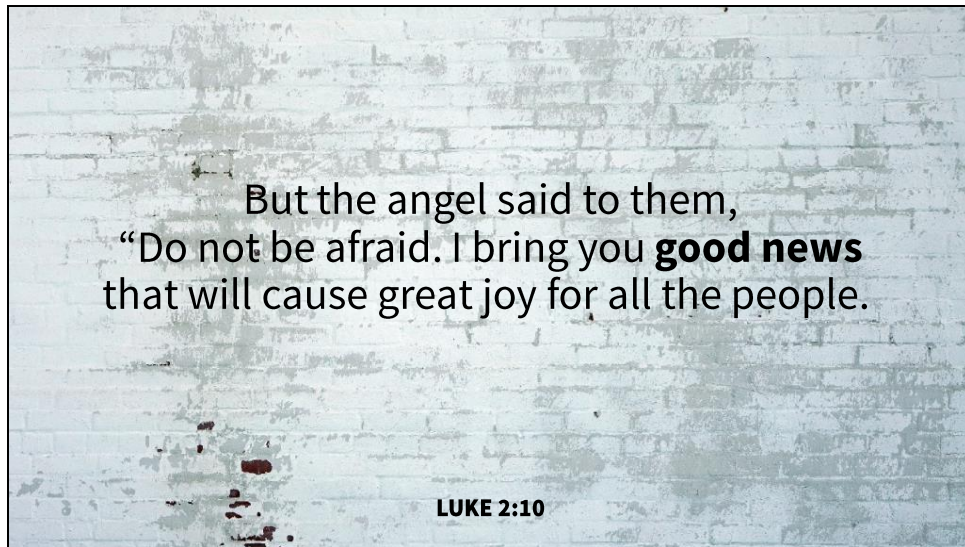
They're **TERRIFIED!**

...they fall quieter than the Barmy Army at the Waca yesterday... gob-smacked, terrified!

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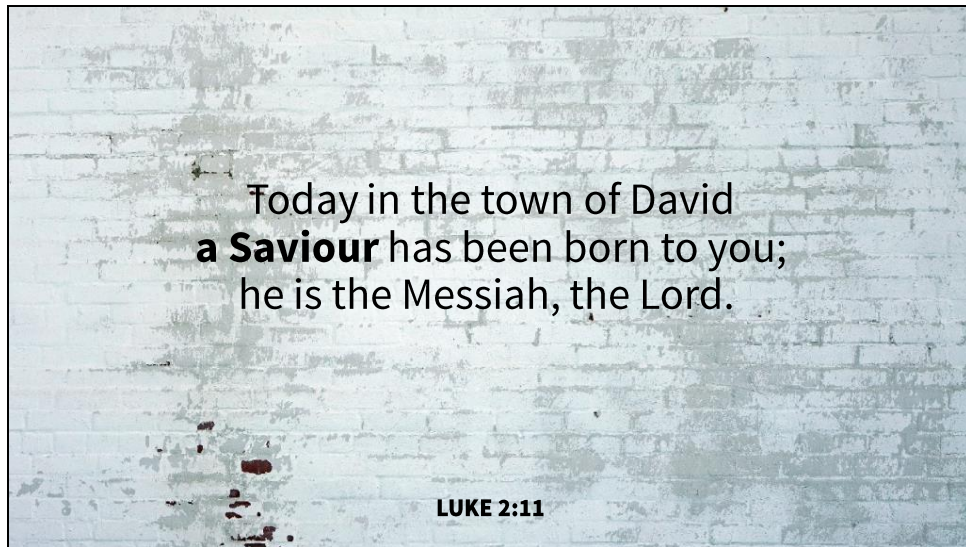
"Me? Invited to meet the King?"



Like Caesar – there’s the promise of **GOOD NEWS...**

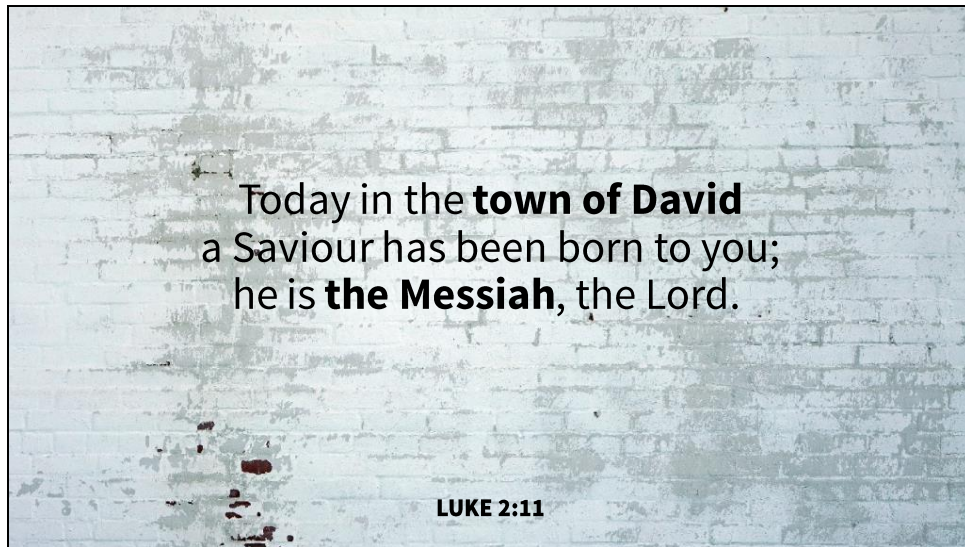
*“...well I’m sure it’s good news for somebody
...somebody a lot cleaner than ME!”*

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Like Caesar... A SAVIOUR!

"...who for? ...those clean enough?"



THE MESSIAH – means a KING!

...how could I be on the right side of the king?

Then again – that bit ‘THE TOWN OF *DAVID*’ – he was a SHEPHERD who became a king

...maybe fairytales DO happen?

...meeting of *SHEPHERD* and **ROYALTY?**

...of *MESS* and **CLEAN?**

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CHRISTMAS WITH A KING?

...will there be ROOM FOR THEIR MESS?

...in the presence of THIS KING?!



But then the angel SAYS SOMETHING PECULIAR

... this baby is going to be found lying in a MANGER... An animal FEED TROUGH...
...will focus in on that on Christmas Day
...but a MANGER...

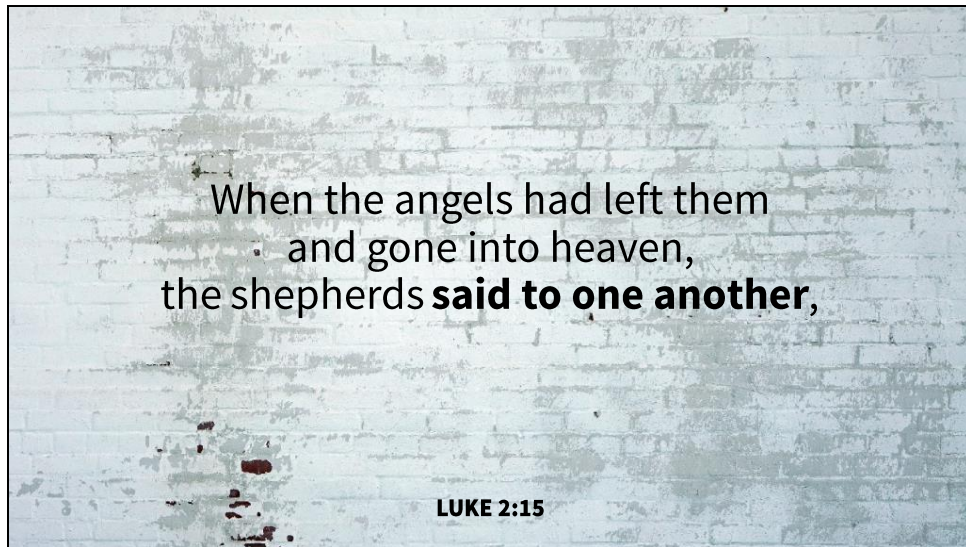
DIRTY.

MESSY.

Maybe JUST LIKE THEM...

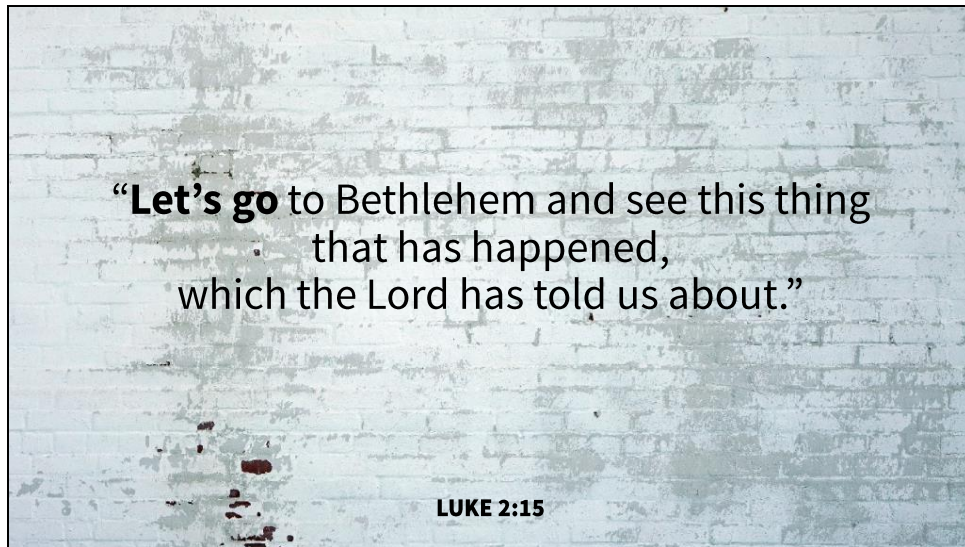
...Maybe This king is here for messy people y'see?

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So when the *ANGELS* go back to heaven
...these *SHEPHERDS* say to each other
...let's go see the one who can take us there!!

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Let’s GO!

...let’s go MEET THE KING!

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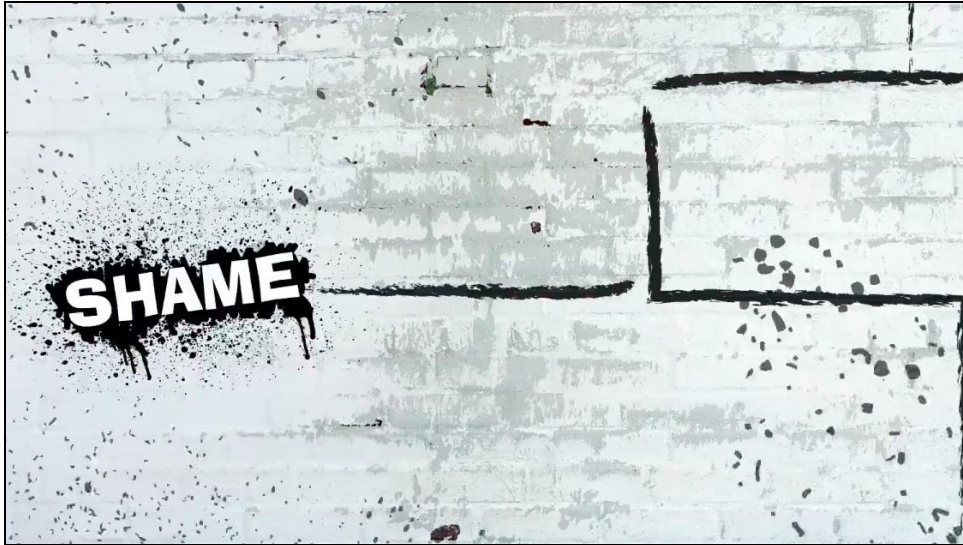
Maybe their messy feet can find a place at his side – by a messy manger?

...fact is...any mess in THEIR story

... can't beat the mess in HIS

...in this baby's backstory...

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The SHAME...

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The SCANDAL...

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And if the BACKstory is messy.... Fast forward...

...this king — Jesus — literally grew up to live the life of a messy nomadic SHEPHERD
...walking in the dirt and dust... Calling himself the 'good shepherd'... Gathering and
protecting his MESSY SHEEP — people.

He even got down in their LITERAL MUCK — to WASH DIRTY FEET — as a picture of his love
and welcome...

That he is a MESSY KING... Who came to get down in the muck to clean us... To make us
presentable... To make us ROYALTY...

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On the cross... Caesar the fake good news king puts the real good news king to death

...little knowing God was using him as a servant in his plan

...to clean up messy shepherds, messy people like you and me

That at this moment that JESUS WAS BRINGING US PEACE with God

...becoming the SAVIOUR KING the world had been waiting for...

...that he was taking our MUCK — the mess of our sin and shame — upon himself to wash us clean...

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There's a ROYAL LOVE STORY... Where we are his BELOVED.... Plucked from obscurity and brought into the family... His messy family...

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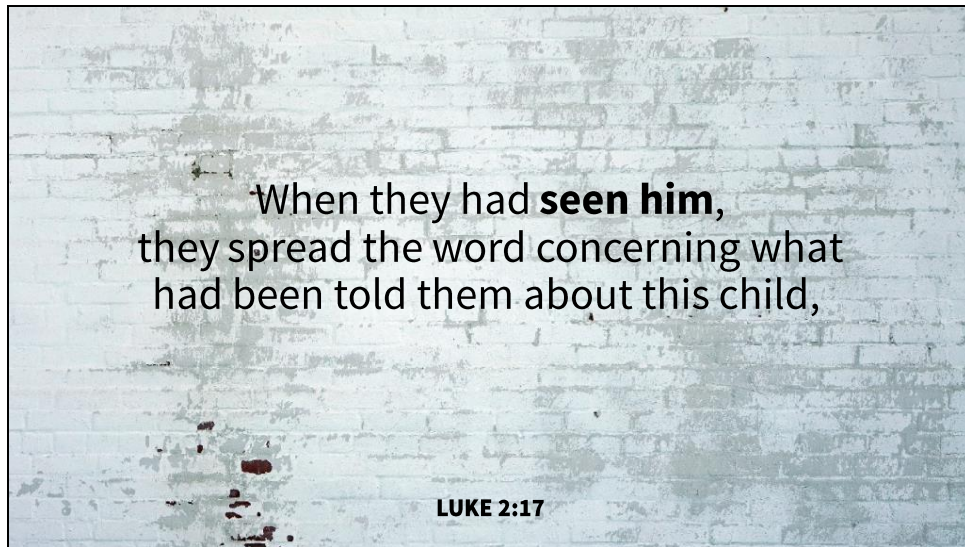
Jesus removes the stench of our mess and invites us INTO THE ROYAL FAMILY.
Not just as a guest... But as PART OF THE FAMILY.

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Seated at the table!

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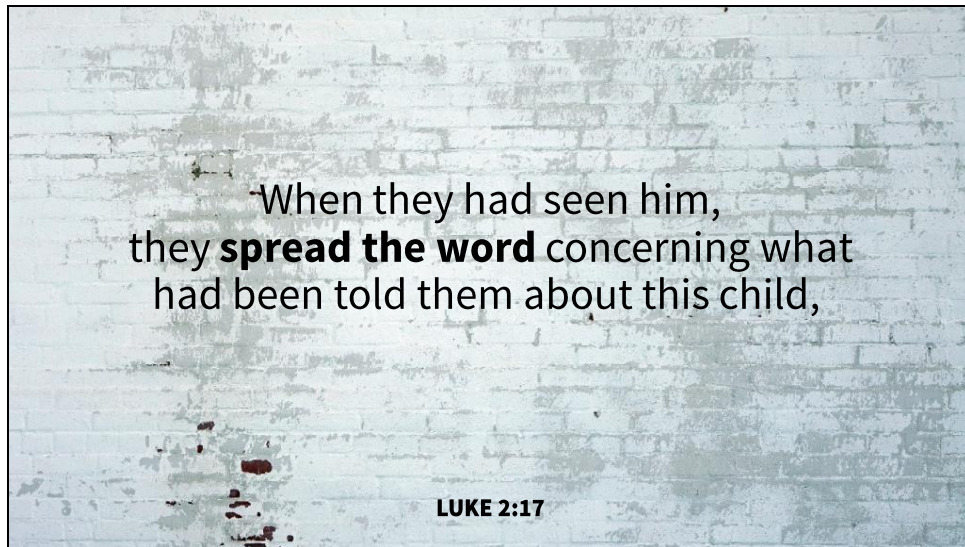
When they'd SEEN him! ...everything changes!

...have you seen him?

...have you met the king?

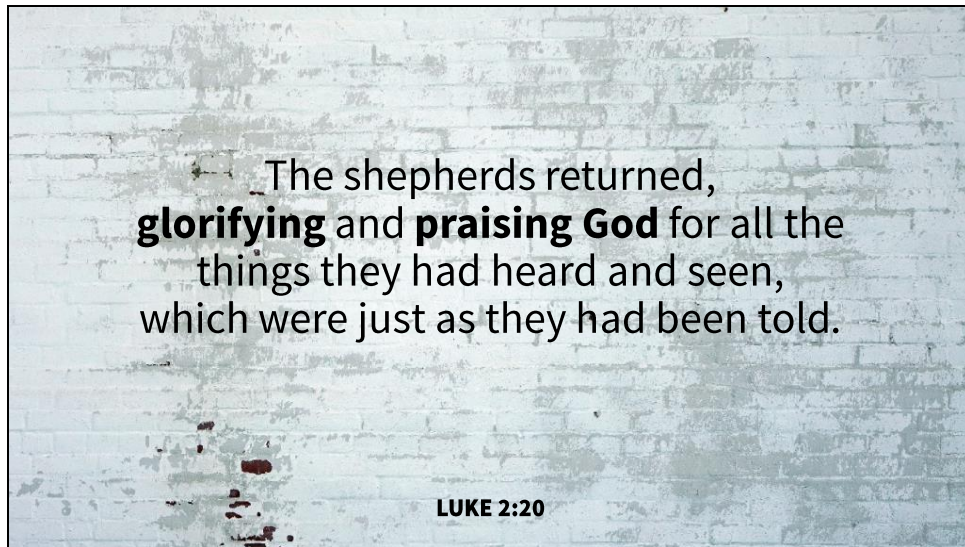
They'd seen angels...but when they saw the king...

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They've gone from gobsmacked silent – to gobsmacked vocal, elated

...SPREAD THE WORD



GLORIFYING God

PRAISING God

...just as they'd been told

...this king...was for them – their king

A king who UNDERSTANDS mess.

...who loves us in our mess...

...& who doesn't just pull us out of our mess but MAKES US PART OF THE FAMILY... What a fairy tale. But it's true...

Slide 45



Last week Rossie and I celebrated our wedding anniversary
...and we've learnt this time of year... it's always best to book
...no queuing... no wondering if there'll be a space...no uncertainty... walk in and there's that reserved sign saying it's FOR SURE

FRIENDS... that's what Jesus has done for us...
...he was born to invite us home – into his home
...he died to clean up our mess ...he's booked us a seat at the table – with a RESERVED sign on it

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Seated at the table
...part of the family

Maybe you'll find your home with this king?

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Why not come along on Sunday to hear about how this MESSY KING

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came into this MESSY PLACE...

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And on Christmas morning

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to hear how this was always part of God's MESSY PLAN to make you clean; and to invite you to be part of HIS FAMILY.

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SEATED AT THE TABLE.
HOME.
WITH YOUR KING.