

“Do You Know What an Angel Looks Like?”

Luke 2:8-14

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Do you know what an angel looks like? Fellas, if you are married or have a girlfriend, I hope you do!

I wonder what the angel looked like that appeared to the shepherds the night Jesus was born? Whatever it looked like, it scared them, didn't it? I don't think it frightened them because of what it looked like, but because it surprised them. I am sure they were not expecting a heavenly visitor that night and were startled when one appeared.

Surely, their anxiety dissipated after the angel spoke, though. Remember the words of the angel? *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.”*

Angels and good news usually go together. There were times when angels were the bearers of bad news, but not often. Most of the time, their messages were good ones. Without a doubt, the message of the angel to the shepherds was good news and brought great joy to the shepherds and many others.

Do you realize that you can be an angel? I know you may laugh at the idea or those who live with you may do so, but I am serious. You can be an angel. As a matter of fact, God needs you to be an angel, a Christmas angel. He needs you to be the bearer of good news to those around you.

Most of the time, when we think about Christmas joy, we think about being the recipient of good news that brings great joy. Many times we are and I know we are grateful. Remember, though, Christmas is about giving as well as receiving. And one thing we need to give is good news that brings great joy. In other words, we need to be a modern day Christmas angel.

What good news could you share with those around you that would bring joy to their lives? Begin with **compliments**. Point out specific things that people do well and let them know you appreciate their doing them. Let them know their good deeds make your life better. What a difference this will make in their confidence and self-esteem.

Share a word of **encouragement** with someone who is struggling. Many people are waiting for someone to give them a reason to keep on keeping on. You be the one.

Offer an **apology** to someone you offended. Say the words, “I am sorry.” Make restitution and seek to renew the relationship.

Tell someone who has hurt you that you **forgive** him or her. Accept their apology. Bury the hatchet. Move on.

Tell someone that you are going to make some much needed and long overdue **changes** in your life. Tell them you are ready to take responsibility for your decisions and behavior and you are going to quit blaming others and looking for excuses. Tell them you are ready to say no to things that are harmful and yes to things that are good.

Be specific, tell them you want to be a better mate, parent, student, money manager, housekeeper, employer, employee, church member or a better citizen. Ask them to help you by praying for you and holding you accountable. Tell them in order to be a better person, you are going to seek God's help along with others. Tell them you are

willing to go to counseling or be a part of a support group. Then step back and watch them smile and cry.

Tell someone you are willing to give him or her a **second chance**. Let them know you will be a part of their support group and biggest cheerleader. Tell them you believe in them and have confidence in their ability to change. Tell them you will pray for them and be there for them when the going is tough. How do you think the Prodigal Son felt when he heard the good news that he could come back home? Do that for somebody in your family this year.

Tell someone who is **reaching out** to you after your divorce or the death of your mate that you are ready to travel down a new road.

Tell your **parents** that you love and appreciate them.

Tell your **children** you are proud of them.

Tell someone what **Jesus** means to you and the difference he has made in your life. Share with them the plan of salvation and encourage them to begin developing their relationship with him, too.

Tell someone you have **accepted** Jesus into your heart and want to be baptized. Tell them you want to be his faithful disciple.

Yes, Christmas and joy go together. However, the greatest joy we experience comes many times as a result of the good news we share rather than what we hear. Try it and you will see what I mean.

Erin Majors said, "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." How true! By the way, what does an angel look like? Go look in a mirror.