

Sam

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The safe arrival of a baby is, generally speaking, cause for great celebration. But unless it is a royal baby, the news barely causes a ripple beyond the infant's immediate family. And even royal babies aren't usually feted by the citizens of other countries.

The first public announcement about the birth of Jesus was to a group of shepherds on night duty on the hills outside Bethlehem. The initial sign this baby was unusually significant was that the news was delivered by an angel:

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

-Luke 2:10-11

The second sign was that the joy of the baby was for 'all the people.' The Jewish people had been waiting for a 'Messiah' – a saviour, for centuries. But the Messiah didn't just come for the Jews – he came for the whole world. He didn't just come for religious people either; he came for society's dropouts and troublemakers.

Jesus causes joy even now, across the miles and the years. If you are in church on Christmas day, you will experience a genuine celebration by those whose lives have been changed, who through the Holy Spirit know the baby born long ago.

The joy is all about the baby. Don't miss the joy this Christmas.