



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 018: The Dirty, Smelly Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20 (<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:8-20&version=NIV>)

*Dirty Jobs* on the Discovery Channel shows us some of the dirtiest, foulest, smelliest jobs that people do. Yet each of these jobs is essential if our world is to keep functioning smoothly. The folks who do these jobs day in and day out are special people with colorful personalities and deserve honor and respect because of the important role they are willing to fulfill.

Shepherding in Bible times was certainly a “dirty job.” Shepherds were dirty and smelly. And they didn’t get much respect from those who formed the upper crust of society. Yet our Lord took special notice of these people. He chose David, a young shepherd boy to be king over Israel. He even took that title upon Himself saying, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). So we shouldn’t be surprised that God chose shepherds to be the first to hear the good news of His Son’s birth.

- What impact does *your* work make in God’s creation?
- How does God’s selection of the shepherds to receive the angelic message give honor to all professions, especially the dirty jobs?

On this special night these dirty, smelly shepherds had the scare of their lives. They saw the angel, the glory of God and the heavenly hosts, and they were extremely frightened.

- Describe how you picture these angels in your mind.
- How terrifying would a visit from one of your angels be?

A cherub is a type of angel, which Ezekiel described, in the first chapter of his book. He said, “... They had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings ... They sparkled like burnished bronze ... As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side and the face of an eagle” (Ezekiel 1:5b-6, 7b, 10).

When they saw the angel, the shepherds were terrified. But God’s good news relieved their fear and made them eager to go to Bethlehem to see the Christ child.

Jesus was skilled in the trade of a carpenter—another dirty job that could easily have been unappreciated.

- How do His labors in Joseph’s shop give you encouragement in your work?

When the time came, Jesus set aside His tools and began His preaching ministry. At the right time, He laid down His life on the cross, and rose in glory on Easter Sunday. His life purifies our lives and gives meaning and worth to everything we do for His glory and for the good of His creation.

Next week we will look at the Wise Men who brought their gifts to the newborn King.