

IF YOU CAN USE ANYTHING
LORD, YOU CAN USE ME

Luke 2:7-20

1. FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE MESSAGE WERE RITUALLY UNCLEAN; DEFILED.

- Luke 2:10 : **Shepherds knew the Law of uncleanness cut them off from God.**

1. Laws of worship – contact with a corpse rendered one unclean; defiled Temple.

“Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus,” by Joachim Jeremias
(Fortress Press, 1969)

- Lev 11:8, 46-47; Red Heifer, Num 19
- Romans 6:23; wages of sin is death.



Ashes of Red Heifer
Unblemished, unyoked
Numbers 19;
Removed Uncleaness
Associated with a
Corpse

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2. FIRST SEEKERS OF CHRIST WERE ASSUMED TO BE THIEVES

- Luke 2:11-12: Shepherds knew they were assumed to be thieves.

2. Laws of commerce. Guilty and unable to prove innocence. No one could purchase wool, milk or lambs from shepherds in open fields.

“*Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*,” by Joachim Jeremias
(Fortress Press, 1969)

- We are guilty and cannot be proven innocent.
 - Rom 3:23-24, All sinned and fallen short.

3. FIRST MESSENGERS OF GOSPEL WERE ASSUMED TO BE LIARS

- Luke 2:17. Shepherds knew no one would believe their testimony. They gave it anyway.

3. Laws of testimony. Assumed to be **untrustworthy, liars**. Shepherds could not testify in court.

“Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus,” by Joachim Jeremias
(Fortress Press, 1969)

1. NO ONE IS UNWORTHY AND OUTSIDE THE REACH OF CHRIST.

• Shepherds: Separated from God

1. Can't do more to be accepted.

- Christ has already done it. 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:4-12

- “You cannot love a God you believe does not love you.” J D Greer, The Gospel

2. Come as you are.

- Ephesians 2:8-9

2. IF GOD CAN USE SHEPHERDS, HE CAN USE ME.

1. Angels never told shepherds to go.
 - A. Never commanded Mary, Joseph to go;
“Do not be afraid....”
 - B. Angels gave information of what God was doing.
 - C. Opportunity vs obligation?

IF YOU CAN USE ANYTHING, LORD YOU CAN USE ME!

1. **Where is God moving?** Join Him.
 2. **Where are you being drawn?** Go there.
 3. **What doors seem to be opening?** Go through.
- *Two most important days in your life: the day you were born and the day you understand why. Mark Twain*