

# The Dispositions of those who heard the first report of Jesus' birth, applied to our own

*(Die Gesinnungen derer, welche die erst Nachricht von der Geburt Jesu empfangen, angewendet auf die unsrigen)*

A sermon (outline) by Friedrich Schleiermacher, delivered on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1802.  
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Source: Johannes Bauer, hg.v., *Ungedruckte Predigten Schleiermachers aus den Jahren 1820-1828: Mit Einleitungen und mit einem Anhang ungedruckter Briefe von Schleiermacher und Henriette Herz* (Leipzig: N.Heinsius Nachfolger, 1909), 87.

## Luke 2: 15-19

15 *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

16 *And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

17 *And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

18 *And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

19 *But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

**Introduction:** Interest in an occurrence should be directed, not at the historical time, but at its connection to the dispositions. In this way, we can be challenged to a lively sympathy.

**Theme:** The dispositions of those who heard the first report of Jesus' birth, as applied to our own [dispositions].

## I. The bare investigation of the matter

1. As it was then for the shepherds.
  - a) They ascertained with diligence and with conviction the importance of the matter.
  - b) But we are not told that they became Christians.
2. As it is now for us.
  - a) Many seek to bring history and belief into line [with one another].
  - b) But they are not equally active constituents of the kingdom of God, although they are equally useful.

## II. The inconsequential miracle

1. Most people at that time:
  - a) How all messianic prophecy and expectation [was] about a child ...
  - b) ... which course the matter would eventually take.
2. Also most people nowadays.
  - a) They wonder how it still abides, and why such a value is placed on it.

b) The miraculous ought not to attract in itself, and it is also not permitted alone to confirm a rejected point of view, as little with regards to events as to people..

### **III. True heedfulness. Mary**

1. Attentiveness to further development.
  - a) With Mary it is naturally excited.
  - b) Also, we can still see the Kingdom of Christ as his childhood.
2. Gratitude for her Election
  - a) She was blessed without precedence ahead of many others.
  - b) We too [are blessed] through the implanting of Christianity in our Fatherland and through our early reception into the same.
3. Decide with redoubled faithfulness to fulfil her duties.
  - a) With Mary, motherly duties. The development of the spirit and body.
  - b) With us also, duties towards the promulgation of the work of Christ

**Conclusion:** So we want to celebrate this day!