

Luke 2:15-20 *And it came to pass* [after the angels had announced the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem], *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* [they hurried], *and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger* [just as they were told]. ¹⁷*And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child* [they told everyone they could find about what the angels told them about 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* [Mary committed all these things to memory], *and pondered them in her heart.* ²⁰*And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, **as it was told unto them.***

1. Introduction

- a. Context in Luke 2:8-14, the things that happened the night Jesus was born
- b. Shepherds first persons told of Jesus birth
- c. Shepherds not high society, but poor people
- d. But they saw angels from heaven in all of God's glory in bright shining light
- e. Shepherds were people that God wanted

2. Shepherds Believed Angel Announcement

- a. They believed God's messenger & believed divine truth

Mathew 7:13-14 *Enter ye* [God's people] *in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction* [for the easy way leads to destruction], *and many there be which go in thereat:* ¹⁴*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

- b. Evidence of their belief

- i. Shepherds were tending their sheep at night on hills around Bethlehem
- ii. But they had great desire to see newborn infant
- iii. They came quickly at night to go into town –inconvenient time
- iv. Evidence in true living faith

Matthew 7:20 *Wherefore by their* [false prophets] *fruits* [the result of their lifestyle and teaching] *ye shall know them* [be able to identify them as false prophets].

- v. Living faith has works

James 2:18 *Yea, a man may say, "Thou hast faith, and I have works": shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

- vi. Christian has responsibility to obey God's Word now – not later
Psalm 119:60 *I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.*

c. Encouragement for shepherds' belief

- i. They found baby Jesus as angels described Him
- ii. The faith of humble people gives many rich rewards & blessings – shepherds first to see baby Jesus
- iii. Unbelief always results in missing out on God's blessings – like Nazareth Jesus' home town never knew the wonder that was happening there.
Matthew 13:58 *And he [Jesus] did not many mighty works there [Nazareth, from Luke 4:16] because of their unbelief.*
- iv. But Jesus showed Himself alive to His 11 Disciples (Judas Iscariot dead)
Acts 1:3 *To whom also he [Jesus] shewed himself alive after his passion [humiliations, beatings, crucifixion and resurrection] by many infallible proofs, being seen of them [His disciples] forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

3. Shepherds Broadcast the Good News

a. Shepherds action

- i. Shepherds told everyone the good news
 - a. The good news of great joy to all people
 - b. The good news of the Savior who is born Christ the Lord
Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other [except Jesus]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
- ii. Shepherds had personal experience with the Christ child & saw Him
- iii. Shepherds had much to say after the angels told them to go see Christ in person
 - a. Luke 2:15 – “...the Lord hath made known unto us...”
 - b. Luke 2:17 – “...which was told them...”
 - c. Luke 2:20 – “...as it was told unto them...”
- iv. Shepherds shared divine revelation (Scripture)
2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture [the whole Bible] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof [to recognize our own errors], for correction [and how to live right, avoiding error], for instruction in righteousness:*
Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick [alive], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder [the complete separation] of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word* [Bible]; *be instant* [prepared] *in season* [at convenient times], *out of season* [and at inconvenient time]; *reprove* [correct people patiently if you can], *rebuke* [or sharply if you must], *exhort* [encourage them to do right] *with all longsuffering* [patience] *and doctrine*.

- b. Reaction to shepherd's good news
 - i. Listeners marveled at shepherd's story
 - ii. Bible no record of any of them visiting the baby in the stable
 - iii. But Mary kept all these things in her heart
 - iv. Mary pondered (thought about / treasured) all these things quietly
 - v. Do not forget the wonder of Jesus

4. Shepherds Behaved in Their Ordinary Lives

- a. According to the truth that they had received

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I* [Paul] *tarry long* [If I am delayed in arriving], *that thou mayest know how thou oughtest* [I'm writing these instructions so that you can know how] *to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground* [foundation and structure] *of the truth*.

- b. They returned to their duties as shepherders on the hills

1 Thessalonians 4:11 *And that ye study to be quiet* [to lead a quiet life], *and to do your own business* [keep your attention on your own affairs], *and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you*;

- c. They went back to living their daily lives

Matthew 5:13 *Ye* [God's people] *are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor* [flavor], *wherewith shall it be salted* [how can you restore it]? *it is thenceforth* [in that condition] *good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men*.

Matthew 5:16 *Let your* [God's people] *light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*.

- d. They glorified & praised God

5. Conclusion

- a. Receive God's Word by faith, like the shepherds
- b. See Jesus & share Jesus, like the shepherds
- c. Praise & glorify God, like the shepherds
- d. Be the people that God wants, like the shepherds