

## **THE SHEPHERDS TOLD WHAT THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD**

Luke 2:17-18 “And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.”

The Shepherds were so moved that when the Angels left, they quickly went to Bethlehem to find the Savior that had been announced to them. They could not ignore what “the Lord had made known unto them.” (Luke 2:15) They had heard God’s Good News. They had to see the Holy One of God with their own eyes.

There are only a few words in Luke 2 regarding the actual face to face contact the shepherds had with Jesus. Luke simply wrote, “And when they saw it.” The effect of the Angel’s message, the Angelic choir and their personal contact with Jesus was overwhelming. The shepherds had to tell others. “They made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.”

Do you realize the shepherds were the first Christian missionaries? They did not build a monument. They did not immediately go back to their daily routine. “They made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.” They spread the word. They were the first human messengers chosen by God to spread the Good News of the Savior’s birth.

These, what we presume were illiterate men, simply told what they had seen and heard. Isn’t there a lesson here? Aren’t the shepherds an example for you and for all Christians this Christmas season? Christmas day is now past. The Angels message has again been told and you have heard it. You have looked into the manger and you have seen the face of God. How can you keep this message to yourself? Like the Shepherds, you can spread the Good News to those with whom you come in contact.

The shepherds’ missionary endeavors were blessed by the Holy Spirit. “And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” The Holy Spirit will be present wherever you tell the Good News of Jesus come into the world as its Savior. There remain many who will be filled with wonder at what you tell them about what you have seen and heard this Christmas season.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, use me to spread the Good News of God's loving gift of His Son for the salvation of all.

Refrain:      Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere,  
                  Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain:

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain:

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain:  
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