

# The Shepherds

"Advent - Monologues"



*"There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around*

*them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12*

"Many have praised and preached about our actions on that eventful night so many years ago. Some say we represent the common folk, the ordinary person-in-the-street. We were of such low esteem that we were not allowed to be a witness in the courts. We know that we were chosen for a much higher task than mere city court.

"As a young shepherd I did not want to work that evening. I wanted to go into town with my friend, the tentmaker's

son. We knew there would be a lot of activity with all the tourists. We wanted to be a part of it. But I never anticipated in my wildest dreams that I would be a part of something that night that would change the world as we know it forever.

"Some say the sheep we watched were special and used for the holy sacrifices in the temple. Some say we were wrong to leave the sheep on that Holy Night after they had been terrorized by the angels' singing.

"We were common citizens; part of God's creation. We were selected by God to see this magnificent sight and chosen by God to hear the angels sing.

"We weren't dumb enough to leave the sheep alone. Some of us got to go but others had to stay behind to watch the sheep. I'm so glad I was one that got to go to town that night.

"Later on after Jesus began His ministry, He referred to Himself as a shepherd, and today He is the shepherd to us. We were the shepherds sent to find that special baby in a manger.

"What do you know about us? You don't know who we were, or why we were out there with our flocks in the middle of the night--when some think sensible and responsible shepherds would surely have had their sheep safely tucked into the fold--and would never have left them--especially after such a terrifying experience. But we were chosen, and Luke tells you the beautiful story of that special night that forever changed our lives, and yours.

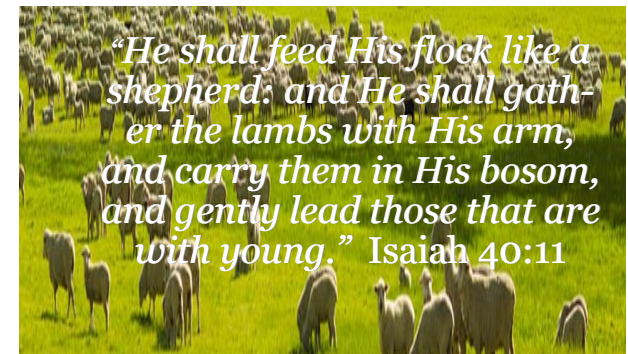
"We beheld the angels of the Lord and heard their voices. So what's so great about that? We were all so blessed that night, but few believed because Christ had not worked any miracles yet. But, we knew we had a God whose love would never let us go.

"It has been written *'And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen.'* We have a God whose cradle led him to a cross and then to an empty tomb.

"We have a God whose love will never let us go. He searched us out. We are God's children. We have been strengthened and redeemed. We are a part of God's eternal kingdom. We need not fear.

"The Bible also tells you that Mary and Joseph were very kind to us and did not treat us as some scoundrels. It is written *'And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.'*

"People can say what they want to about us but I know that in God's eyes we were special. We had been chosen for a very very important task and given a wonderful gift long before the people who thought they were so important.



*"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 40:11*

*The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.' Luke 2:18-20*

"Yes, some questioned; some believed. It didn't change the way we tended sheep. We were responsible people, but we had a wonderful experience that some will never understand.

"People who criticize us need to stop and realize that when Christ was ministering on this earth he called himself a shepherd with pride because the shepherd always took care of his flock as God took care of us that night and still does today.

"This is the true word of Christmas. Join with us--just as we did to others so long ago as we went back to our flocks. You too can return glorifying and praising God for all that you have seen and heard."



Note: While there are few references to the shepherds actually going to the manger, the Scriptures are filled with references of Christ being the Good Shepherd and our being His flock. Most of these speak about the love and protection given to mankind by the Shepherd and the characteristics of a good shepherd who cares for his flock.

## While Shepherds Watch'd Their Flocks by Night

*"While shepherds watched their flocks  
by night*

*All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around*

*"Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind*

*To you in David's house this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Savior who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign:*

*The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling  
bands  
And in a manger laid"*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Christ is born  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Christ is born*

*"All glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace  
Good will henceforth from God to man  
Begin and never cease"*

Lyrics by Nathum Tate



Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, as we approach this wonderful season, help us to have the same faith as the shepherds. Help us to believe and not question without angels speaking to us in a choir. And then help us to search for the truth just as they did and go to the manger and accept Christ as Your beloved son. Amen.

1. Why did God choose such a lowly bunch of people for this important task?
2. Would we believe a few nomads or strangers if they came to us today with news of this nature?
3. Do we fear public opinion?
4. Would we want to be given the job of the Shepherds?
5. Are we aware of the wonderful gift given to us at that time?
6. Which "Shepherd" do we associate ourselves with today?
7. Are we called to be Shepherds?

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