

CHRIST CAME FIRST FOR THE REJECTS OF SOCIETY – PART 2

Luke 2:15-18 ... “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

In our previous lesson, we discussed the amazing event following Jesus’ birth, when angels appeared to shepherds – only to shepherds – and announced the birth of our Savior. The poorest, least respected, and rejected people of the land, were the first people that God trusted with the news of Jesus’ birth. In today’s passage we read that the shepherds agreed to go to Bethlehem to see the baby. That was a brave and bold plan, given that shepherds were generally unwelcome in town. But the extraordinary visit to them by angels helped them overcome any shyness and compelled them to leave their sheep and get to town as quickly as possible. Verse 15 also reveals that the shepherds were aware that “the Lord,” had given them this good news. If you are an atheist or someone who knows nothing about God, and angels of the Lord appear before you with a message, you will instantly go from doubting to believing.

After the shepherds found Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, “they made widely known” what the angel had told them about the baby being the long-awaited Savior; the Messiah. They told everyone. Perhaps they became went from door to door, or shouted it in the streets. They may have told the local Jewish Rabbi or the mayor of Bethlehem. The best part of this is in verse 18 where we learn that the “good” people of Bethlehem – the wealthy, upstanding citizens, leaders and studied people of Bethlehem – “marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

It is still true today that even a lowly person, when called by God to preach the good news, will be respected and listened to by people with whom they would not normally associate. That is because a mantle of God covers his servants and compels others to listen. That does not mean that everything a servant of God says will be accepted, but that their voice will be heard. Many reject the truth today, and many probably rejected what the shepherds said. But they listened and “marveled.”

If God has called you to serve him, do not be afraid or timid. You are called with a purpose and God’s mantle covers you. Speak boldly, truthfully and openly about Jesus your Savior. Tell people your story (testimony) about what Jesus means to you and spread the Gospel to others. Above all, do not fear the consequences of serving God. There is no better time to share the good news of the Savior with others, than in the days following our celebration of his birth, when many who are not saved, are curious and willing to listen.

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