

What about the shepherds?

This morning, as you are assuredly aware, we celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. A celebration that rings out in all of Christendom and beyond. Regardless of country or kingdom, the citizens of the world know of Christmas. Yes, there are remote areas within the human population who don't know who Jesus is and many who know, but do not believe. However, the vast majority of people all over the globe know about Christmas. How do they know? I group of lowly shepherds started it all!

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. Luke 2:15-18

Let me emphasize a part of that passage, "*Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*"

What might that have looked like? Here we have a bunch of shepherds who had come from the fields where they were with their flocks. Probably dirty, smelly, disheveled, and ungroomed. They didn't go home to shower and put on their best suit. "... *they came with haste*" to see what the angels were talking about. They came with no thought other than to get to the place where Jesus lay. They didn't scratch their heads wondering if they had lost their minds and were having a mass hallucination. They said, "*let us go and see*". And so, they did. They went. God used them to "*make widely known*" what they had heard and seen. Can you imagine them? Not someone most folks would want to get too close to. Walking up to any one they saw and telling them what had happened? What they heard? What they saw? And what's more "*all those who heard it marveled...*".

The first "evangelists" for the Lord were crummy, dirty, stinky shepherds! If God could use these lowliest of humans for His work, think about how much He could use you! God did not send this message to kings and pharisees, but to the most common of men so that we could see that He sent his son for us. You and me. We sinners whose souls are crummy, dirty and stinky are made clean through "*Him who loved us, washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,*" (*Revelation 1*"5b-6a)

As you join with others today, don't miss the most important message. We are ALL evangelists for Christ. No matter our position in life, we can all share the story of salvation that was born in a manger and visited by shepherds over two thousand years ago. It may be a little cliché, but... Keep Christ in Christmas!

May you be blessed with love and warmth today and through out the days to come!


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