

# Joy to the World!

2-13-21

(Can be used as a play.)



**Luke 2:7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son;and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Joseph and Mary were on their way to Bethlehem to register or be counted as those who were in the family of David. What a trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem that must have been for them! Mary was about to give birth. Most women don't travel when they are that close to giving birth. Well, Joseph and Mary couldn't find a room in an inn (hotel) so they used what they could find - a stable where animals are kept and a manger. A manger is a wooden box or trough from which animals eat.



**Luke 2:8** In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

By human thinking, shepherds at that time were not thought to be people you wanted to be around. They were constantly out in the fields with their sheep so they were probably dirty. They were raising the sheep which were to be sacrificed in the temple. However, they couldn't even go into the temple! Yet, they were very faithful in taking care of their sheep day and night! These were the people God chose to be the first to see the Messiah!



*The Shepherds Saw a Great Light*

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Luke 2:9-11 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



Try to imagine an angel of the Lord standing before you! It would be quite a surprise! The angel told them not to be afraid. He had great news for them; their Savior had been born. That was wonderful news! No need to fear. They could rejoice!

Luke 2:12-14 "This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

You can be certain that there were not any other babies who were wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger! Only Jesus Christ, the most important baby, was born in such a humble place. God the Father thought this was the best place for Him to be born. If He wanted Jesus to have a nicer place, He would have provided it for Him. We are to keep our eyes on Jesus, not on the surroundings then or now.



Luke 2:15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

Notice that the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem. They didn't waste any time. They believed that the angel was sent from God. They believed God's word that the Savior had been born and He was lying in a manger in Bethlehem. They were excited to find Him!



**Luke 2:16-17** So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

The shepherds were in the same area as Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus. They "hurried" to find them. They must have been so happy to find them. I wonder what their conversation was. Maybe something like this: "We've been waiting a long time for Christ the Lord. We thank God for our Savior! We will spread the wonderful news!" What amazing love and grace came down from heaven at the birth of Jesus Christ!



Luke 2:17-18 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

The shepherds were so excited about their Savior being born that they told others about it. They wanted them to know about and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The shepherds wanted to make known the truth that the Messiah had come! Hopefully, many believed.





**Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.**

Mary chose to obey and serve God. She was very happy to be the mother of Jesus - His humanity. She was very humble and wanted to do whatever God asked her to do. She was pleased that the shepherds had come to see Jesus and that they knew who He was. It made her happy that they would go tell others about Jesus Christ - their Savior.



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

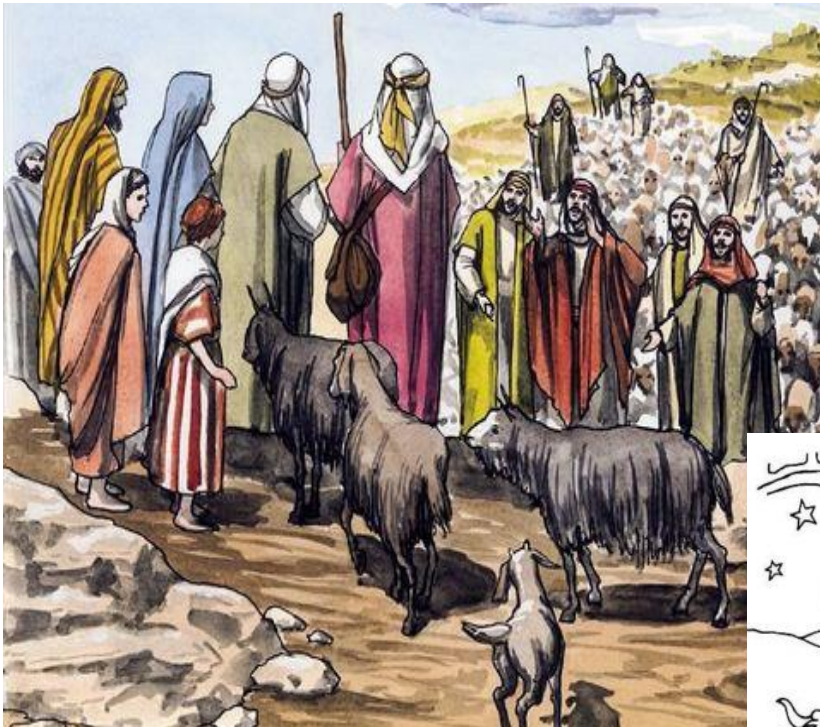
The shepherds must have had a good journey back to their sheep in the fields. Knowing that their Messiah had been born and seeing Him was a big event in their lives. It was like no other birthday which they would ever celebrate! They honored and praised God for all that He had done for them! The shepherds excitement over the birth of Jesus was seen and heard by others. They must have been excited too! Just reading and hearing about the shepherds adventure can make us rejoice and want to honor and praise God! "Happy Birthday, Jesus. Thank You for giving us such a wonderful present - salvation."



**Song: Go Tell It On The Mountain**

**Chorus:**

**Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
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**

(Sing the chorus.)

The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo! Above the Earth

Rang out the angel chorus

That hailed our Savior's birth

(Sing the chorus.)

Down in a lowly manger

Our humble Christ was born

And God sent us salvation

That blessed Christmas morn

(Sing the chorus.)



**John 3:16-17**

**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

