

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Pastor Brian

Luke 2:16–20 (NLT)

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

1. THE SHEPHERDS SHARED THE GOOD NEWS.

"...the shepherds told everyone what had happened..." (17)

You can tell who's really had a life-changing experience by seeing if they pass it on.

"Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed." (Luke 2:18, GW)

"I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings." (1 Corinthians 9:23, NLT)

2. MARY PONDERED GOD'S PLAN.

"Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often"

"Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." (19 ESV)

"Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them." (Luke 2:19, NCV)

"The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you." Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant." (Luke 1:28–29, CEV)

What Should I Ponder When God Works in My Life?

- WHO AM I?

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!" (1 Chronicles 29:14, NLT)

- WHO WAS I MADE TO BE?

“Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work...” (Jeremiah 1:5, NCV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, NLT)

- **WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?**

“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” (Ephesians 5:17, NLT)

3. THEY ALL RETURNED TO THEIR ORDINARY LIVES EXTRAORDINARILY CHANGED.

“The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.”

“Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, GW)

“It doesn’t make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not; what counts is whether we really have been changed into new and different people.” (Galatians 6:15, The Living Bible)

“And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,” (Titus 2:12, NLT)

ACTION STEP:

Next Week: How to Create a Life Development Plan