

WHAT THE SHEPHERDS SHOW US

Christmas Stories: Part 4

December 20, 2015

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⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:8–20 (NIV)

LESSONS FROM THE LEAST OF THESE

1. GOD CHOOSES ME.

"Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"?" (1 Corinthians 1:26–28, The Message)

God's favorites

- HUMBLE

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6b, GNB)

- HURTING

"Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you." (1 Peter 5:7, The Living Bible)

- **HOPELESS**

*"The LORD is there to rescue all who are discouraged and have given up hope."
(Psalm 34:18, CEV)*

"Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me..." (Genesis 16:13, NLT)

2. GOD CHANGES ME.

Let's go to Bethlehem and see...

"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?" (James 2:14, NLT)

"These words of Peter's moved them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" And Peter replied, "Each one of you must turn from sin, return to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you also shall receive this gift, the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37–38, The Living Bible)

3. GOD CHALLENGES ME.

"After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished," (Luke 2:17–18, NLT)

"For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard." (Acts 22:15, NLT)

"We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3, NLT)

LAST THOUGHT

*We have been shown Jesus that we might **SHARE JESUS**.*