

 **The Shepherds and the Lamb of God**

Luke 2:8–18 • John 1:29

Scripture Focus

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” — *Luke 2:10–11*

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” — *John 1:29*

Reflection

The first people to hear of Christ’s birth weren’t kings, priests, or scholars. They were shepherds—ordinary men working the night shift on the outskirts of society.

But historically, these were likely Temple shepherds, the ones responsible for raising sacrificial lambs—especially the Passover lambs that had to be young, spotless, and without defect.

Think of the beauty:

The men who watched over lambs destined for sacrifice were the first to see the Lamb destined to save the world.

1. God Meets Us in Our Ordinary Places

The shepherds weren’t in the temple. They weren’t praying. They weren’t searching for a sign. They were simply doing their job—faithfully, quietly, humbly. And heaven broke in: *“The glory of the Lord shone around them...”*

Christmas reminds us: God often shows up in unexpected places—in fields, in routines, in ordinary nights. You don’t climb to God. God comes to you.

2. God’s Message Is for the Humble in Heart

The angel’s first words were: “Do not be afraid.”

Before they did anything, God assured them of peace, favor, and joy: “Good news of great joy... for all the people.”

The world announces good news to the powerful. God announces His to the humble. He lifts the lowly. He sees the unseen. He welcomes the unworthy.

3. God Reveals Jesus as the True Lamb

The angel gives a “sign”: “You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Temple shepherds wrapped newborn lambs to keep them from blemish. Now *they* see the true Lamb, wrapped in cloths, lying where sacrificial lambs were laid.

- The Lamb is for restitution of sins (Rom. 6:23)
- All have sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- Christ takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)
- God reconciles us through Him (2 Cor. 5:19)
- He was led like a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53)
- His precious, spotless blood redeems us (1 Peter 1:18–21)

The baby in the manger is the Lamb on the altar. Christmas is inseparable from the cross.

4. God Invites Us to Respond Like the Shepherds

A. They Went

“Let’s go to Bethlehem...” They didn’t delay. Obedience is urgent.

B. They Told

“They spread the word...” Their encounter turned them into evangelists. Meeting the Lamb makes you a messenger.

C. They Worshiped

They returned “glorifying and praising God.” A true meeting with Jesus always ends in worship.

Devotional Challenge

Where is God inviting you to respond like the shepherds?

✓ To **go**?

✓ To **tell**?

✓ To **worship**?

Take a few quiet minutes today to thank Jesus—the Lamb of God—for mercy, forgiveness, and freedom.

Devotional Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for being the Lamb of God who takes away my sin. Thank You for stepping into my ordinary world with extraordinary grace. Give me the heart of the shepherds—to run toward You, to proclaim Your goodness, and to worship You with joy.

Amen.