



## MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Shepherds: “The Story You Can’t Keep to Yourself”**  
Series: **Storyteller**  
Text: **Luke 2:8-20**  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **December 21, 2025**

Isaiah show us a promise that \_\_\_\_\_ all us to come to Jesus!

Joseph teaches us that God \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in the parts of life we never planned.

Mary reveals that \_\_\_\_\_ is how God writes His glory into human hearts.

### TODAY WE LISTEN TO THE SHEPHERDS WHO SHARED THE STORY!

#### 1. SURPRISE! GOD USES THE MOST \_\_\_\_\_ MESSENGERS!

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. (Lk 2:8-9).

**Why shepherds?** Because God loves using \_\_\_\_\_.

Brothers and sisters, **think of what you were when you were called**. Not many of you were **wise by human standards**; not many were **influential**; not many were of **noble birth**. But God chose **the foolish things** of the world to shame the wise; God chose **the weak things** of the world to shame the strong. God chose **the lowly things** of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. (1 Cor 1:26–29)

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled, ordinary men**, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Many Christians carry a “\_\_\_\_\_” identity:

#### 2. HEAVENLY NEWS - \_\_\_\_\_ FOR EVERYONE!

“But the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.** Today in the town of David a **Savior has been born** to you; **he is Christ the Lord**. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Lk.2:10-12)

This is **the Gospel** in the Bethlehem night:

- Savior – our \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ – the promised \_\_\_\_\_
- Lord – God \_\_\_\_\_

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”** (Lk. 2:13-14)

**I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,**  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the LORD **has done for us—**  
yes, **the many good things he has done**  
for the house of Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses. (Is. 63:7)

### 3. ACTIVE FAITH - \_\_\_\_\_ IMMEDIATELY

“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.” **So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph,** and the baby, who was lying in the manger. (Lk. 2:15-16)

Active faith means:

- YOU GO WHEN GOD \_\_\_\_\_
- YOU MOVE WHEN GOD \_\_\_\_\_
- YOU SHARE WHEN GOD OPENS A \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ IT ON!

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. (Lk 2:17–18).

Francis A. Schaeffer says,

The ideal approach to \_\_\_\_\_ is not a **mechanical or dutiful task**, but one with a “burning heart” - sharing with genuine joy and passion. As illustrated, even heavenly angels rejoice over each person who is saved, and Christians should approach evangelism with similar excitement and thankfulness.

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. (Lk 2:19–20).