

Advance to the Manger — Day 12

Advance in Sharing

Luke 2:8-20 TPT

"That night, in a field near Bethlehem, shepherds were watching over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared in radiant splendor before them, lighting up the field with the blazing glory of God, and the shepherds were terrified! But the angel reassured them, saying, "Don't be afraid, for I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere! For today in Bethlehem a rescuer was born for you. He is the Lord Yahweh, the Messiah. You will recognize him by this miraculous sign: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in the feeding trough!" Then all at once in the night sky, a vast number of glorious angels appeared, the very armies of heaven! And they all praised God, singing: "Glory to God in the highest realms of heaven! For there is peace and a good hope given to the sons of men." When the choir of angels disappeared and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go! Let's hurry and find this Word who is born in Bethlehem and see for ourselves what the Lord has revealed to us." So they hurried off and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in a feeding trough. Upon seeing this miraculous sign, the shepherds recounted what had just happened. Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was astonished by what they were told. But Mary treasured all these things in her heart and often pondered what they meant. The shepherds returned to their flock, ecstatic over what had happened. They praised God and glorified him for all they had heard and seen for themselves, just like the angel had said."

Introduction:

The Shepherd's Witness

- Scripture: Luke 2:8-20
- Explore the shepherds' response to the angelic announcement.
- Share the joy of Christ's birth with others.

Luke 2:8-20 tells the beautiful story of the shepherds who were the first to witness the birth of Jesus. Their experience serves as a powerful example of how we can advance towards the manger through the witness of others. Let us reflect on the significance of the shepherds' witness and the lessons we can learn from their encounter with the Savior.

Heart Reflection

1. Sharing the Good News:

After witnessing the baby Jesus lying in the manger, the shepherds couldn't contain their joy. They immediately began to share the good news with others, spreading the message of the Savior's birth. Their witness had a profound impact on all who heard it. As we journey towards the manger, let us follow the shepherds' example and share the good news of Jesus with others. Through our words and actions, may we be a witness to His love, grace, and salvation, inviting others to encounter Him.

2. Responding in Worship:

The shepherds' witness led them to respond in worship and praise. They glorified and praised God for all they had seen and heard. Their encounter with the Savior transformed their hearts and ignited a deep sense of reverence and adoration. As we approach the manger, let us respond in worship, just as the shepherds did. Let us give thanks for the gift of Jesus and offer

Him our wholehearted praise. May our encounter with the Savior lead us to a life of worship and surrender.

Call To Action

- **Share**
 - Be aware of the need to share your faith.
 - Be willing to share with anyone you meet.
 - Be assured He is faithful to His Word.

- **Praise and Give Thanks**
 - Give praise and thanksgiving as you enter your day.
 - Keep a heart of gratitude in your daily routine as you advance.
 - Never get too busy or distracted to give Him praise.

Take A Way

As we advance to the manger through the divine interruptions, let us be reminded of the profound lessons embedded in this story. God works through interruptions in our lives, fulfilling His purposes in ways we may not understand. He calls us to share and give thanks in the journey, trusting His guidance and provision. And He meets us in our our everyday lives, bringing hope and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Take a moment to reflect on the awesomeness of Jesus' birth and the lessons it teaches us. Consider how you can accept the interruptions and give praise in your own journey of faith. Thank God for His presence in the routine of everyday and ask Him to help you share the good news as you advance to the manger with a praise filled heart.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,

As we advance towards the manger, help us to be open to divine interruptions. Give us receptive hearts that are willing to hear Your voice and respond to Your call. Fill us with joy and faith as we receive the good news of Jesus' birth. Empower us to share this good news with others, that they too may encounter the Savior. May our witness lead others to worship and praise You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.