

December 25

Luke 2:16-19 (NIV) ¹⁶ So [the shepherds] 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.

I have shared previously that I was in the hospital for three days. I fought that decision because I thought I had too much to do. While there, I received excellent care for my health. Also, during that stay, I had uninterrupted time to spend with the Lord. There was no rush, no interruptions, no checking my phone, and no tasks demanding my time. While those caring for me took care of my body, the Lord began to take care of my mind and spirit. During that time, I realized how wrong I was to think I was too busy to take time to be with the Lord. If we ever get that busy, then we are truly in trouble.

No matter how many times I have read the Christmas story, the Holy Spirit continues to bring me new understanding. On that day when the shepherds came, when the angels sang, and when the Word became flesh, Mary treasured everything and pondered them in her heart. “Ponder” means “to weigh in the mind, to think about with thoroughness and care, to reflect.” In the midst of the most exciting even in history, Mary took time to ponder everything in her heart. She put aside all that was happening and spent time with the Lord while holding the Lord. This reminds me of another Mary, who sat at Jesus’ feet while her sister fretted over all that needed to be done. Both Marys chose the best part. The world will convince us that we are too busy or too important to sit at Jesus’ feet. God, on the other hand, tells us to be quiet and know He is God (Psalm 46:10). Two conflicting statements. One is a lie; the other is truth. When we listen to the voice of truth, amazing things happen. At the end of those three days, the Lord had reordered my life and revealed that much of the stress in my life was self-generated. On the day Christ was born, Mary took time to ponder everything so she could fully understand. We, also, should take time to sit at Jesus’ feet or the world will run us into the ground. May we each have a merry Christmas as we truly ponder all these things in our hearts.