

## The Shepherds' Story

I wonder what it was like when Christ was born? What kind of emotions and thoughts would the people have had? My mind focuses on the shepherds who came to see Jesus.

One quiet night these shepherds were sitting quietly around the fire. The sheep were sleeping contently. The sheep were content because they had caring masters to watch over them. The shepherds quietly talked to each other as the fire crackled. Their discussions might have ranged from the flock, to their families, and maybe even to God. Did they know that this night would be any different? This night they would bear witness to the Son of God. They were simple shepherds not learned men. They had little time to spend studying God's word. Yet they, not the religious leaders would see God's son first.

As they sat and talked something wonderful happened. In Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus the Son of God. Suddenly the Heavens were filled with light, singing, and angels. These men must have thought the world was ending. Then a voice of an angel called to them from above. They rose slowly and turned their faces upwards. The shepherd's faces must have reflected fear and astonishment. The angel gave them words of comfort and told them that the King of Kings had been born.

Joy must have filled their souls. These simple men wanted to go and pay honor to the newborn king. The elder shepherd might have reminded them that this might fulfilled prophecies.

What went through their minds when the angel told them where to find the new king? They must have been shocked. The King of Kings was not born in Jerusalem, the holy city and the seat of government. He was born in Bethlehem. The child the Son of God was not born in a rich man's house in Bethlehem. He was born in the stable of an Inn. This was a strange place for a king to be born. Would they have remembered

Isaiah's prophecy? How could they deny it? A choir of angels had brought them the news.

The elder shepherd commanded the rest to gather the flock and head to that stable. As they walked along the road they must have wondered what made them so special. They were simple men and yet they were told by angels to see God's son.

I think they may have missed the whole point at first. God humbled himself and became flesh. He sent His Son to save the whole world, not just the rich and religious. Jesus was born in a stable and had shepherds as witnesses to make a point. Jesus came to the weak, oppressed, poor, and sinful. He came to rescue them. They were the ones who would be saved by His death.

The shepherds arrived and saw Jesus. They bowed down before him. They looked into his eyes. They must have known why they were there and why Jesus had come. Jesus lay there in the manger smiling with sparkling eyes. Those eyes would one day stare into Heaven and ask God to forgive His persecutors. Those eyes would reflect the mercy, compassion, and grace.

I think those men must have felt a peace beyond words. It was a peace that their sheep felt under the watchful eyes of their master. It was a peace that each of us can have if we accept Jesus as our Savior.

These shepherds were changed for life. They had joy, peace, and love in their hearts. These men were not healed by a miracle. They did not even hear Jesus preach. They had all this from looking into Jesus' eyes. How can anyone not be changed after accepting Jesus? They had power, understanding, and a new life. We have read about Jesus, heard of his miracles, and read his words. Some of us do not believe, some of us doubt, and most of us cannot give Jesus full control of our lives. These shepherds believed with nothing more than a sparkle in His eyes.

In my journey into the past, I have learned that I have no reason to doubt. I have salvation, peace, and power through Christ. If he could change shepherds by looking into

their eyes, he can change mine if I let Him have control. All I have to do is be like those men and be open and trust him with everything.

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