

“Don’t be Sheepish” (Luke 2:8-20)

Yesterday morning, a Hebrew shepherd by the name of Shai shared his story of the birth of Jesus Christ. This evening, we will look at the account on which Shai’s experience was based (Read Luke 2:8-20). In these verses, we will see three responses from the shepherd’s. Let’s go and see; let’s go and tell, and let’s go and live. The shepherd’s first response was...

1. Let’s go and see (2:15-16). Luke records the following: **“When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, ‘Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.”** These shepherds immediately responded to God’s revelation. Verse 16 says that “they came in a hurry.” Is your life characterized by immediate obedience? Do you hurry to do God’s will when He makes it know to you?

[The shepherd’s second response was...]

2. Let’s go and tell (2:17-18). Luke writes, **“When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.”**

It sounds like wherever they met people on the streets, they gladly told them about their adventure. Maybe they went out of their way to go where they knew people were gathered. I can imagine one saying, “Hey, my uncle lives over there. I want to tell him.” Notice that they don’t seem too worried about having a carefully constructed or complex presentation. I wonder how often we fail to tell anyone because we think we need a memorized formula for sharing the plan of salvation. These are valuable and can be effective but they aren’t always the place to start with someone.

[The shepherd’s third response was...]

3. Let’s go and live (2:20). Our passage concludes in wondrous fashion: **“The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.”** Luke makes it clear that these shepherds couldn’t stay in the village or stay close to the manger. They had to go back to their work, their families, and their routines. But they didn’t go back the same. They went to live in the light of this new reality. They went back, “glorifying and praising God.” Our experience with Christ is not just about a single, wonderful and emotional meeting. That’s just the beginning of a life lived so that even the daily routines bring glory to God and in each dimension of life we praise the living God, our Savior.

I heard a story about a woman who was doing her last-minute Christmas shopping at a crowded mall. She was tired of fighting the crowds. She was tired of standing in lines. She was tired of fighting her way down long aisles looking for a gift that had sold out days before. Her arms were full of bulky packages when the elevator door opened. It was full.

The occupants of the elevator grudgingly tightened ranks to allow a small space for her and her load. As the doors closed she blurted out, “Whoever is responsible for this whole Christmas thing ought to be arrested, strung up, and shot!” A few others nodded their heads or grunted in agreement. Then, from somewhere in the back of the elevator came a single voice that said, “Don’t worry. They already crucified him.”

We need to remember who is responsible for the whole Christmas thing. It is all about how God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son so that who ever believes in Him might have eternal life.