

This week...

Scripture: Luke 2:15-19

Monday Luke 2:15 “*Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.*”

God’s message arrives to common men working and living in the field. Their hearts were stirred by the message, and they decided, “*Let’s go*”, “*Let’s get moving*”, “*Let’s act*”. God’s message still stirs heart today. How have you responded to His message?

Tuesday Luke 2:16 “*So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding box.*”

Luke reports that the shepherds responded “*quickly*”. How many reasons or excuses can you think of that could have been used to not respond quickly? What reasons or excuses do you offer for not responding quickly to God’s instructions?

Wednesday Luke 2:16 “*So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding box.*”

What effect do you think finding the baby in a manger (literally, feeding box or trough) would have had on you? Would you have questioned the message or the importance of the birth of Jesus due to the humble circumstances? Do you ever question or refuse God’s purposes because they don’t seem to fit with your life, surroundings, or circumstances?

Thursday Luke 2:17-18 “*When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*”

What was the value of the shepherds telling the others what the angels had said to them? Everyone was “*amazed*”, “*astonished*”, and “*caught up in wonder*”. What do you find to be the most amazing part of their story? Are you still amazed today by what God has said and done? As you celebrate Christmas this year, consider ways you may share the amazement and wonder with others.

Friday Luke 2:19 “*But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them*”

Mary’s amazement did not end on the night of Christ’s birth. Search the Gospels for other times and places where Mary “*pondered*” or thought about all the things she had treasured or guarded in her heart. Have you treasured the things spoken of old about Jesus in your own heart? Do these treasures have an effect on your daily life? Spend time in prayer as you meditate on the response of Mary to the things she witnessed at Jesus birth. Ask God to not only remind you of the amazing things revealed to you through His birth, but to open your eyes, heart, time, and resources to the many ways you may impact the lives of others as you share the same good news of great joy.