

Thought for the Day

Tuesday December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Today's Scripture:

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

~ Luke 2: 17-20

Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

As we consider The Christmas Story, most famously & wonderfully given to us by St. Luke, we tend to focus upon Mary, Joseph and Jesus, as it should be. However, it is well worth the time of the Christian soul to give attention to the other main characters in the narrative: *the shepherds*. Some may even conclude they played a far more important part in the story than we tend to notice. We might even assert that they were the first Christians as they were the first to believe in Jesus as Messiah. Why should we give such consideration to the words and actions of the lowly shepherds? Because for us in the faith, also lowly and humble, they are our best role models. Let's examine how they responded to the amazing events of that glorious night.

First, they obeyed the angel who delivered the news of Christ's birth. They'd been told they would find Him in Bethlehem lying in a manger, in swaddling clothes, and they went to seek Him out. Is that not what we are charged to do? To seek out The Savior? Especially at this time of year.

Second, they couldn't wait to tell Mary & Joseph what they had seen and heard. They had witnessed a taste of the divine in a visit from the angel of The Lord and then even granted a sneak peek into the Heavenly realms when an entire multitude of "Heavenly hosts" appeared and sang to them. They actually ended up being messengers to Mary as we are told she "treasured and pondered" the glorious events the shepherds related. Their story had to be solid tangible affirmation for her. We too are charged and implored to share own witness we've had with The Holy Spirit.

Third, the shepherds offered heartfelt praise and glory to God for the things He had accomplished. That has to be a major part of our Christmas celebration, n'est-ce pas? As we come to The Lord today in authentic worship, praise and exaltation has to be foremost in our hearts and minds.

Finally, the shepherds left the Holy scene and immediately began to spread the good news of The Messiah's birth. Can we not imagine them knocking on doors and telling everyone they met what they had seen and heard, both in the fields and in the stable? If only we were as excited and inspired to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Yes, there's a lot we can learn about Christmas from a small band of common modest shepherds.

Prayer:

Imighty God, how wonderful and glorious were the events surrounding the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We laud and glorify You for the way Your orchestrated the entire happening. May all honor and glory and praise be Yours. Thank You for choosing humble and lowly shepherds to be Your messengers, first to Mary and then to the world. We modest faithful souls so wish to be as valuable to You in Your kingdom. Inspire us to be as eager to share the good news of Jesus Christ, born this eve in Bethlehem. We sincerely pray in His Holy Name, Amen.