



Stepping Stones

Luke 2:15-20 Luke New Revised Standard Version

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Notes: _____



The birth of a baby tends to bring a response. Everyone wants to hold the baby, dress the baby, feed the baby, play with the baby, and take pictures with the baby. And, that doesn't even take into consideration the plethora of questions that go along with babies: "How old is she?," "What's his name?," etc. Family events, church functions, it doesn't matter. A baby has a way of drawing attention.

We can only imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph, following Jesus' birth, to have shepherds appear as their first company. Better yet, we can only imagine what it must have been like for those shepherds when a host of divine messengers appeared during their evening shift announcing, "Good news which would be for all people." Their contribution to the Nativity story is filled with fear, intrigue, and celebration over their findings.

Shepherds were simple people. They weren't always embraced by those committed to the observance of the Law. After all, their job was dirty, demanding, and didn't necessarily give them an opportunity to practice all of the rituals associated with being Jewish. Humility and hard work characterized their task, and it's perhaps fitting that those common workers were the first to visit the One who would one day refer to himself as "The Good Shepherd."

- 1. The shepherds acted upon their initial insight.**
- 2. Their experience led them to witness to others.**
- 3. The encounter resulted in a worshipful response.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, may my experience of your salvation result in worship and witness. Amen.