

## Christmas Day Reflection - Luke 2:15-20

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"Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." (Lk 2:20a) The shepherds waited, the shepherds saw, the shepherds acted with haste. Where Advent is a time of waiting, the celebration of the Nativity on Christmas calls us into a time of acting and rejoicing. Christmas is an invitation, a challenge of sorts, to carry the glory of our Lord's humble birth to others.

This is easier said than done, as the days following Christmas often unfold with exhausting travel, jam-packed workdays, and a desire to return to a more normal routine. On the outside, it often looks as though the celebration is over. Decorations are put away in dusty closets. Your inbox overflows with urgent requests before the new year begins. However, the role of the shepherds in this Gospel reminds us that the story of our newborn Savior lives on – in our words, our actions, and our praise—if only we let it.

After all, the shepherds are much like us (and those in the communities where we live and serve beside). They are blue collar workers in the margins of society, laboring to make ends meet. They are human people with human concerns. Yet it is through them that the truth of Jesus' birth is revealed: a humble child, born to a young mother in an unfamiliar land, has come to liberate us, guide us, and unite us in his love. And it is through them that others are invited into this ever lasting story.

Now it is our turn to do the same. Your invitation today is to be a carrier of this Truth to others, to consider how you as an individual and as a member of your community can be a messenger of such Good News far beyond the Christmas season. Today, you're invited to learn as the shepherds learned, believe as the shepherds believed, and rejoice as the shepherds rejoiced. Go bring Christmas to others!

### Prayer

God of Humility and Freedom,  
Thank you for the gift of your child, who came to us in a familiar way, so we could more deeply see the purpose you have set out for us. Guide us in your wisdom to carry the story of your Child's birth to others we encounter, especially those who are hurting and in need of your liberating love, and those who keep others oppressed. May we notice those who reveal to us the face of the infant Jesus, and may they notice his face in us.

Amen

### Service Suggestion

Many causes, nonprofit organizations, and community programs are well-funded and supported during the holidays, but struggle during the rest of the year. To keep the message of Christmas alive long after the season, I invite you to contact an organization you learned about this season (or have volunteered with in the past) and find out the best way to be involved the rest of the year. Whether the program addresses hunger or refugee resettlement, childhood literacy or foster care, prison ministry or human rights, use the Christmas Gospel as inspiration to seek the face of God in others, especially those often pushed to the margins. Don't forget to share about this cause or program with others, as we are stronger as the Body of Christ!