

## DO NOT HESITATE (Holy Moments, Part 3)

### The Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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God spoke a beautiful message to the shepherds through the angels: "Don't be afraid. I bring you the good news that will bring great joy to all people, the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem, the City of David." Without hesitation, the shepherds glorified and praised God for all the things that they had heard and seen. Thus, the first ministry was proclaimed to the poor in spirit, not to the rich.



#### 1. God chose to announce the Good News to the shepherds; He called on them to be His witnesses (Luke 2:8-11).

1.1. The shepherds (during the 1<sup>st</sup> Century) were regarded as a low class of people next to the lepers.

1.3. They were kept out of synagogues and temples and could not observe the Sabbath. They could not spend the time to clean themselves because they had to take care of the sheep.

1.4. They were regarded as dishonest and unclean according to the Torah (the law). They represented the outcasts and sinners.

1.5. Their job was extremely hard and dangerous. They risked their lives protecting the sheep from predators.

1.6. They knew each of their sheep and searched for even one lost sheep.

**2. Jesus had the habit of choosing outcasts and sinners.** He spent time with the woman with five (5) husbands; invited Zacchaeus and Matthew (tax collectors considered as outcasts), the ordinary fishermen, and an adulterous woman.

#### 3. Why were the shepherds chosen as receivers and witnesses of the Good News?

**3.1. Faithfulness.** Each one knew the voice of the shepherd. They were destined for sacrifice in the temple.

Are we faithfully going to be in the right place when God arrives?

#### 3.2. The shepherds followed the light.

They received the message through a brilliant, blinding light coming from the heavens as they saw the angels. They followed the light to find the manger in the darkness of the night.

#### 3.3. They responded in obedience without hesitation.

The shepherds received the message and followed with faith; without question, they made haste and went to the birthplace (Lk.11). Do we immediately respond every time we are called by God?

#### 3.4. They exhibited great reverence, fear of God (Lk. 2:20).

The lowly shepherds took the place of the angels to make the announcement to all people.

Similarly, we must never lose the fear of God and honor Him. In our life today, let us make sure to remove resentment, unforgiveness and sin. Let us surrender our pride and stubbornness. Let us aim to always please Him.

#### 3.5. They witnessed and spread the Good News.

We must be like the shepherds. Let us prioritize glorifying and praising God (Lk. 2:17-18). We must witness and proclaim the goodness and love of God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. God gave us the spirit of boldness (not timidity) so we can be His instruments to declare the good news. He instructs us to make disciples of men by bringing people to the flock (Mt. 28:19-20, Ps. 119).

**Conclusion:** Let us respond with great joy to the coming of the baby in the manger. Let us transform the holidays to be **HOLY DAYS**.

**Reflection:** How will you respond to the Gospel that you were given? Will you still follow Jesus even after Christmas? Or will you walk away?

#### SCRIBES Ministry:

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