

21T20g Christmas OutTake – Why Shepherds

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well.

I love the Christmas season with all the traditions and gatherings of family and friends. It is truly a beautiful time of year. I love to see all the lights and decorations. But often we forget there is a reason for the season. That reason is Jesus. The birth of Jesus to be exact. For Christians we have lots of traditions about Christmas; the Nativity, the Star, the Wisemen. I thought it would be fun to look at some parts of this story we don't normally talk about. I'm going to call these Christmas Story Out Takes.

Ever wonder why shepherds? First of all, shepherds were not thought of very highly. In fact, shepherds were one of the lowest social classes in 1st century Israel. Most people thought of them as dirty, disgusting shepherds. Not well groomed shepherds. Long time since your last bath shepherds. You get my point; these guys were outcasts from society.

Another thing to think about before we read the story, can you remember any other shepherds in the bible. Well, some pretty important people in the bible were shepherds. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses before he was called to lead God's people out of Egypt. What about King David before he was king? Even Jesus calls himself the "Good Shepherd". So, in the Bible shepherds are pretty significant. Society says they are unimportant, but God uses shepherds for important roles in His kingdom. I love our God.

Let's read the Shepherd's portion of the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2 starting with verse 8, [Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. \(Luke 2:8-20 NKJV\)](#)

There is a lot here to digest. Put yourself in the place of the shepherds. Here you are out in the countryside, another night just like the last many nights. You might have been with some friends sharing food and for security. Then there is this bright light and an angel. I'm guessing these guys were a little freaked out. But then the sky lights up with heavenly host singing. Now you'd be more than freaked out. And it over. Now what? Well of course you're going to go see what this is all about. Do you think they all just left their flocks and went or did some poor guy stay behind to watch the sheep? We don't know. But do you think they wondered; how will we find Him? Will they let us see the baby? Will anyone believe us? I'm sure these and many other questions ran through their minds, but they had just been visited by angels and that was amazing.

So, these guys, these shepherds went to Bethlehem in the middle of the night to find a newborn baby. I have often wondered how they found Mary & Joseph. It could have been the star or some other supernatural sign. Or they could have asked around. Although I can't imagine, too many people would answer their doors at night for a group of shepherds. It is actually a miracle how they found Jesus.

Now just for a second think about this from Mary & Joseph's point of view. They just had a baby, it's nighttime and then these shepherds show up wanting to see the new baby. This would have been just as strange as it sounds. Think about it, people you don't know come to visit your new baby in the middle of the night. Now I understand, both Mary and Joseph knew Jesus was going to be different. But this still had to weird them out a lot. But how amazing were they to welcome this group into their special moment. They welcomed them and spoke with them for some time I would expect.

Then back to the flocks they go. But these guys spread the story all over. Of course, most would not have believed a bunch of shepherds. But the shepherds did not care, they told everyone anyway.

One last thing we need to ponder. God made this announcement to the least of society, not the religious leaders, not some respectable business owner, no God choose shepherds.

Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, thank you for this beautiful story. Thank you for using people the world would not choose to show us everyone is important to you. Help us to see the world the way you do and not judge others because of what they do or what they look like. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

I hope you are enjoying the Christmas Out Takes. The Christmas story has so many amazing details, we too often forget to look at the full story. This is a truly amazing story. The greatest story ever told. The story of Jesus my Lord and Savior.

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