

## “Shepherds Wanted at the Manger”

Luke 2:8-20

### **What made the Shepherds worthy to be invited to the first Christmas?**

**Luke 2:8–14** — “<sup>8</sup>In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; **11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth **peace among men with whom He is pleased.**”

The last phrase of the angels raises an important question -- Why were these shepherds pleasing to God?

#### **I. For some reason they were considered special to God.**

##### **A. God highly values the qualities of a shepherd.** (Moses and King David were shepherds)

1. Do you watch over those that are placed in your care?
2. Do you feel it is your duty to protect the defenseless?
3. Can others depend on you to be there when they need arises?
4. Do you provide for the physical needs of those in your care?

##### **B. God honors the sacrifices of shepherds: They face...**

1. Loneliness – **Psalm 73:28**
2. Constant hardships – **1 Corinthians 15:58**
3. Dangers – **Psalm 23:4**
4. Obscurity – **Galatians 6:9–10**

#### **II. Shepherds served a special purpose that Christmas night.**

##### **A. Chosen to be first to hear that their Savior and Lord has come.**

**Luke 2:9** And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

1. Shepherds belong to a category of people referred to by Jesus as infants in regard to their demeanor. – **Mat 11:25–26**
2. “**Infants**” – are people who are “infant-like”; they are conscious that they know nothing, and have no right to sit in judgment on the things that belong to God and they determine simply to “hear what God the Lord will speak.”

##### **B. They were the type that believed God and quickly shared it.**

**Luke 2:15–16** — “<sup>15</sup>When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

##### **C. They would forever mark the story of angels heralding the birth of Jesus.**

**Luke 2:17–20** “When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.”

#### **THINK, PRAY and OBEY:**

1. Hear what God the Lord will speak this morning.
2. Decide to be well pleasing to the Lord by your response.
3. Continue loving people like a shepherd cares for the sheep.

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