

Advent 2020
December 23, 2020

Shepherds

Ken Colson

Wednesday, Day 25

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Luke 2:8-10 (NIV)

Let's listen as the Bethlehem shepherds leave home for a night in the fields.

"Have a safe time abiding in the fields, dear." said Dorcas to her husband Amos.

"It will be quiet tonight. Nothing ever happens in the fields," replied Amos.

As the shepherds walked toward the pens, ready to relieve the day shift, the small talk continued. "Well, another quiet evening. Boy, I could use some excitement tonight. It's going to be hard to stay awake. I was busy repairing our clay roof all day...and I'm tired. We're here...stay awake guys!"

As you probably have surmised, a shepherd's life was lonely and solitary. As the outcasts of society, their circle of friends was limited. Yet, on this night, God chose to bring the greatest news to the most unlikely group of people.

The angel appeared out of nowhere! He was covered...no, he was layered with light! He shone...even blinding the shepherds. The night was suddenly bright with glory! The shepherds literally fell face down in dread and fear!

Fearing imminent destruction by such an unearthly being, the shepherds were more than surprised to hear, "Don't be afraid! I have phenomenal news for you!" Hardly able to breathe, the shepherds slowly raised their heads and listened as the angel shared the long-desired news of the promised Messiah!

The shepherds' good news is for YOU! For everyone! Jesus is coming just as the prophets said. Get ready!

Shepherds...God promised! Advent – God is coming to us.