

## DECEMBER 25

*“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*  
- Luke 2:15

What must those shepherds have thought when the nighttime became like day because the sky was filled with angels? God visited these simple shepherds who were out in the night simply doing their job and they saw His glory above and around them. They had no indication at all that this day, this night would be different than any other. They simply showed up and suddenly, out of the night, God spoke. The angel told them of a great joy, good news for all people, a Savior that had come in a form absolutely no one expected.

It would have been easy perhaps to just take all this in and go about their lives, keep guarding their flocks, diligent about the work they had been given. That is not what they did. Amazingly, they left behind their flocks, their livelihood, their responsibilities, and rushed into Bethlehem. It is about a mile and half walk from the likely location where the shepherd's guarded their flocks to the historic location of Jesus' birth, the present day Church of the Nativity. A lot of things could have happened to their flocks while they pursued the newborn Savior. But this did not stop those shepherds. God had spoken to them, and they needed to respond. Because their hearts burned with hope, they needed to see the King with their own eyes. So, not unlike Peter, Andrew, James, and John, who left their fishing nets and followed Jesus, these shepherds laid it all aside to meet this baby boy King.

God has come to you. That is what this day, Christmas Day, means. How has Jesus specially met you today through the work of the Holy Spirit? Not unlike the Shepherds tending their flocks, simply doing their job, God has appeared to you. How will you respond? Will you drop everything? Will you drop something and take notice of this great grace given unto you? A greater grace, a greater truth, a greater gift, a greater Presence awaits.

- Rev. Eric Laverentz

*Lord Jesus, help me to pause and take notice of your presence. Let me drop and leave behind whatever I need, whatever stands in the way, even at a great cost, so I may know you more fully today. Amen.*