

Go Tell It On the Mountain

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"^[c] ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Luke 2:8-20, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic today is "Go tell it on the Mountain." I'd like to share with you three points and then I'll prepare to close.

Firstly, Never underestimate the power of shepherds or common folks. As I reflect back on my own childhood, it didn't take a whole lot for me to know that the Joy of the Lord was truly my strength. My family didn't have a lot of resources, but they knew how to use the resources that the Lord blessed them to have. My grandparents were farmers. They'd kill hogs in the winter and have a smoke house to maintain the pork; curing it with salt. I remember as a little boy, I would help my grandparent can fruits and vegetables, so that they would be readily available for the winter. Do you remember canning? How has this process changed over time? I had a lot of uncles, and I noticed that they practiced hand-me-downs. (A tradition where the older siblings would share clothing with younger ones.) Oftentimes, I'd get to wear shirts, jeans, and shoes that

one of my uncles used to wear. Can anybody testify that they received some nice hand-downs? We were common folks. For about 2 months out of the year in the summer; my sister and I would get an opportunity to spend time with my grandparents. To me this was the best thing since sliced bread. They had grape vines, peaches, plums, pecan trees, walnut trees, apple trees, and they even had honey suckles and sour weeds. This was like a vacation to me. **2 Corinthians 3:17** says **“¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”** Common folks – We didn’t feel that we lacked anything because we had God, Love, and family. It was our belief that we could do All things through Christ, who strengthens us. (Phil.4:13)

Yes, we were common folks who believed in Almighty God. The pastor (shepherd) of the church often received resources from the farmers; like food (pork, vegetables, etc.) because people didn’t have a lot of cash during those days. On occasion, they would have a revival called a “Pound” service in which they would pay the shepherd (preacher) with a pound of food. Can you imagine 50-100 members sharing a pound of meat or vegetables as a love gift to their shepherd? I participated in one of these services and I can’t tell you how much of a blessing it was to see a foot tub filled with all types of resources. What a blessing? So, NEVER Underestimate the power of shepherds or common folks. They knew how to pray, and they knew that their power developed through their walk with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, Don’t be Afraid. [Isaiah 41:10](#) says, Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ Big Bethel, let me tell you something, “If you’ve been praying for that blessing on the job, that Blessing in your relationship, that blessing in your finances, that blessing in your health, the fulfillment of your dreams... Claim it in the name of Jesus. Hold On. Hold On. Hold On. And don’t be afraid; for there is Good News of Great Joy for All the People: To You this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord!!! His Name is Jesus. {THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU}

Thirdly, you’ve Got to Celebrate and Praise God for All that You’ve Heard and Seen. (From Malachi – to the New Testament Gospel is @ 400 Years. Over 400 years the Israelites had not heard from God). In 1903 noted scholar W. E. B. Du Bois wrote: “The Negro Church is the only social institution of the Negroes which started in the African

forest and survived slavery; under the leadership of priest or medicine man, and afterward of the Christian pastor. The Church preserved in itself the remnants of African tribal life and became after emancipation the center of Negro social life. **We've got to go tell it on the mountain.** The African American church is like unto no other worship experience. It is seamlessly tied to heaven, earth, and Africa. **We've got to go tell it on the mountain.** African American worship did and does much to instill a sense of "somebodiness" in its clergy and in its laity. **We've got to go tell it on the mountain.** It's been said that when we look back over our lives; we've lived with reminders of what our place was—what not to say, where it was safe to be, and how to make life just a little smoother . . . the Lord sent me to remind you this morning, that our souls don't have to wonder 'How we made it Over.' We've got the God that made heaven and earth on our side. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. (Good God Almighty). We have a Saviour by the name of Jesus who shed His blood to save us. We've got the Holy Spirit who is always with us. We can't just whisper this in the valley, but O' we've got to go all the way up to the mountain top. There may be some issues with our government, but there is one, in which the government shall be upon His shoulders. Many are looking for help. But I found out, that there is one whose name is called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. And of the increase of His government and peace; there will be no end. You see, when we declare that Jesus is Lord on the Mountaintop, they will hear it in the valley. They'll hear it all over. They'll hear that Jesus Christ is Lord. Won't you allow Him to come into your heart and make Him Lord of your life today?

In closing, If the angels were praising God. I just believe that we ought to give God some Praise.

The song says, "**While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night. Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light: Go, Tell it on the Mountain. Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the Mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo! Above the earth. Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed our Saviour's birth: Go tell it on the Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the Mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger, Our humble Christ was born. And God send us salvation, That blessed Christmas morn: Go tell it on the Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the Mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.

When I am a seeker, I seek both night and day; I seek the Lord to help me, And He

shows me the way: Go tell it on the Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the Mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.

He made me a watchman, Upon the city wall. And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all. Go tell it on the Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the Mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.