



# THE SHEPHERDS

“A Dialogue among the Shepherds:

*“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.” Luke 2:8-9*

Shepherd 1: Many have praised and preached about the shepherds on that eventful night so many years ago. Some say we represent the common folk, the ordinary person-in-the-street, someone just like you.

Shepherd 2: Some say the sheep we watched were special and used for the holy sacrifices in the temple. Some say we were wrong to leave the sheep on that Holy Night after they had been terrorized by the angels' singing.

Shepherd 3: Some have said we were outcasts, disreputable scoundrels, maybe, even crooks. Yes, we were sinners, not as adverse as some want to think, but we were in need of a Savior, just as the world is today. We needed to be at the cradle of our Lord, just as sinners do today.

Shepherd 1: We were common citizens, part of God's creation, just like you. But, we were selected by God to see this magnificent sight, and we were chosen by God to hear the angels sing. What a wonderful privilege. Can you hear the angels singing? Later on after Jesus began His ministry, He referred to Himself as a shepherd, and today He is the shepherd to us. He cares for us all the time, just as a good shepherd.

Shepherd 4: What do you know about us? You don't know who we were, or why we were out there with our flocks in the middle of the night--when some think sensible and responsible shepherds would surely have had their sheep safely tucked into the fold--and would never have left them--especially after such a terrifying experience. But we were chosen, and Luke tells you the beautiful story of that special night that forever changed our lives, and yours. It was never described as terrifying by us. We saw it as a time of honor, glory, and majesty. We knew our sheep were in good hands.

Shepherd 2: We beheld the angels of the Lord and hearkened to their voices. So what's so great about that? The Bible says: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen." We have a God whose cradle led him to a cross and then to an empty, shattered, finally defeated tomb.

Shepherd 3: We have a God whose love will never let us go. He will search us out, come join us, and walk with us down all the daily paths of life even unto death. We are God's children. We have been strengthened and redeemed. We are a part of God's eternal kingdom. We need not fear.

Shepherd 1: Yes, we glorified and praised God for all we had heard and seen. We will never be the same again.

Shepherd 4: This is the word of Christmas, the strength which we invite you to join with us--just as we did so long ago. You too can return glorifying and praising God for all that we have seen.