

December 26th

The shepherds were told where to find the Christ child. And they decide to go see Him for themselves.

Luke 2:16 – *And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.*

They see Him.

They talk to His parents.

They touch His tiny hands.

We do not know how long they stayed. It could have been several minutes or several hours.

We do not know what they talked to the new parents about. We can assume they probably told Mary and Joseph everything they experienced in the fields. How God came down to them, humble shepherds, with a radiant beam of light. What the angel said about their Son. What the angel promised about His life. And how the heavens responded in outrageous worship because of the announcement.

We do not know how Mary and Joseph reacted to having visitors. They are tired. They have a new baby. And they are now on a mission to protect their heavenly Son from harm.

But they do not turn the shepherds away. They are able at this point in their story to recognize the glory and hand of God. So they entertain the shepherds.

And when everything has been said, the shepherds take their leave.

Luke 2:17,20 – ¹⁷ *Now when they had seen Him, they made _____ known the saying which was told them concerning this Child ...* ²⁰ *Then the shepherds returned, _____ and _____ God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*

They are so amazed at being included in God's plans that they tell anyone and everyone they come into contact with. Instead of avoiding people and their judgment, they seek out people to share the good news.

How do people react to their proclamation? (**Luke 2:18**)

But how does Mary react to their news? (**Luke 2:19**)

Going Deeper:

1. *How do the shepherds in these verses correlate with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:1-30,39-42?*

2. *Why does Mary react as she does to the shepherds? Is it merely a mother's heart at work, or is there more behind her actions?*

3. *What has been something amazing God has done for you that you have not been able to keep to yourself?*

4. *Why would the townspeople, who usually may have avoided them, be willing to listen to the shepherds after they left the manger?*

5. *What is something in your life you glorify and praise God for? Why is it such a blessing for you?*
