

Journey Enews

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WHAT CHRISTMAS IS REALLY ABOUT

By Bobby Duncan

“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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’”

Luke 2:8-11 NIV



With Christmas nearly upon us now (just 21 shopping days left), the whole world is in a frenzy; we're hoping to get everything neatly wrapped, tucked under the perfect tree before Christmas Eve arrives. Not until then will we pause to catch our breath. This year has really felt rushed, even more than usual. Thanksgiving came later this year, pushed back a week on our calendars. We begin to feel the pressure of our hurriedness during holidays.

How is it that we often miss the most obvious at Christmas? We're just people (sometimes called sheep) who often feel anxious. Why is this? Apparently it is the nature of people and sheep. It's OK to not be OK. Just don't stay that way.

So, let's do this. Let's be reminded of the reason for the season. Take a closer look at the verse above. What do you see? No, really besides baby Jesus born in Bethlehem. I see poor shepherds working hard, late at night, third shift. Not a lot of opportunity for meaningful promotion. Forgotten people, blue collar workers, factory workers, doing their best to make a living.

I see the heavenly angels coming first to these no-name, nondescript shepherds in the Bible. They are on the receiving end of glorious, wonderful Good News. Jesus the Christ is born. And get this, do you want to know Him? Jesus is for everybody, they report.

Certainly, this was not a typical night for the shepherds. Who wants a normal, busy, hectic Christmas anyway? The shepherds, spooked and afraid, were quickly calmed by the angel. Let all of Heaven and its angels calm your fears this Christmas season.

These same shepherds eventually discover for themselves the joy of the world and peace on Earth, which Jesus' birth is all about. Do you, too, know Jesus, the savior of the world? If not, maybe this is the Christmas it becomes real for you.

Christmas is about baby Jesus coming to meet us all one day in Heaven, our Savior. And that is what Christmas is really about. Jesus changes everything. Especially our Christmas season here on Earth. Jesus is the perfect gift, not under the tree, but on the tree (the cross) to take away our sin and death.

Merry early Christmas. Don't be afraid.