

tell me The Story Again

Part 5: The Encounter

December 29 & 30, 2018

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***But Mary treasured up all these things
and pondered them in her heart.***

- LUKE 2:19

Luke 2:8-16

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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

When you encounter Jesus...

Take time to ponder

Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth. - ***Psalms 46:10***

When you encounter Jesus...

Move and experience God

Luke 2:17-20

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

When you encounter Jesus...

Share the good news

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. – **Acts 1:8**

Romans 10:13-16

...for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Next Steps

Baptism is an ideal way to share the good news of your encounter with God. If you've chosen to follow Jesus but have never been baptized, you'll have that opportunity during services on January 19 & 20. To be included, be sure to attend one of the baptism classes offered after each service on January 12 or 13. All the details are today's program insert.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's your favorite Christmas tradition?
- 2) Mary took time to ponder how God was at work through the current events in her life. Is stopping to ponder a regular part of your spiritual experience? Where do you find the time or space?
- 3) When the shepherds heard about Jesus, they moved from the familiarity of the fields to get closer to Jesus. What is the last move you made to pursue experiencing Jesus more?
- 4) When was the last time you shared about Jesus with someone who does not know? What would you say about him if you had the opportunity?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?