What the Shepherds Did

**Read:** Luke 2:8-18

Introduction: We’ve talked about the Inn Keeper and we’ve talked about Joseph so today I want to talk about the shepherds. On Friday evening we were opening some gifts and we preceded the celebration with reading the Christmas story. This message came from that reading. I found several things that the shepherds did that are worth emulating. Here they are:

**Abiding:** they had staying power. They were shepherds and as such they either had to take the sheep back home at night or remain with the sheep all night long to protect them from thieves and/or wild animals that might want to have them for a late night snack. These shepherds stayed with the sheep. They were more than sheep keepers…they were sheep lovers.

**Keeping Watch:** they were working. They watched for predators, they watched the weather, and they watched out for thieves and rustlers. They observed each sheep for any sign of sickness or parasites that they might have picked up. They watched for the best environment to place these sheep in. They watched so that the sheep didn’t fall off a cliff or into the water. They were watching the sheep themselves and they were watching out for the sheep.

**Fearing (sore afraid):** there are several types of fear. There is a reasonable fear that causes people to be cautious. There are un-reasonable fears that cause some to hide out of sight from any and everything. There is a fear that motivates and there is a paralyzing fear. The sore afraidness here is of the motivating kind. It seems that they were blown away but that this “fear” caused them not to shake and tremble but rather to obey.

**Listened to heavenly messengers:** they did more than hear, they actually listened. Honestly many times we hear things that go in one ear and out of the other. Sometimes we can repeat back what was said to us but it still goes no further than the interior of our eardrums. The real reason that we know that they listened is because they did what they were told to do.

**Left their flocks:** they became doers of the word and not hearers only. Do you know how irresponsible this was for a shepherd to leave their flocks unattended? The only way that this would happen would be for the owner to order them to do so. That is exactly what happened.

**Found the babe:** obedience led them to the Savior. When you and I listen to the Word or the Word Made Flesh we will always end up in the presence of the savior. When you wake up far from God you can be sure that you have wandered on to the wrong path.

**Witnessing:** they couldn’t keep quiet about what they had seen. Have you ever witnessed an auto accident or passed a house on fire? I promise you that if that ever happens to you, you will tell someone about it sooner rather than later. It seems like we can’t shut up about unusual events in our lives. When you have an encounter with the savior of all the universe you will find it impossible to keep your mouth shut.

Conclude: The shepherds provide a road map for anyone who has yet to meet the savior. Recap and altar call.