

Advent Devotional: "Do You See What I See?"

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Scripture: Luke 2:15-17

"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 they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child..."

That night in Bethlehem, the shepherds didn't just stay behind in the fields; they decided together to go and see. And they went quickly! What God had promised and what the angels announced called for a response. The shepherds moved from hearing into seeing, from faith into encounter.

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We celebrate Christmas because centuries of promises were finally seen in the birth of our Savior, Jesus. The virgin would conceive and bear a son; that He would come from Bethlehem, from the line of David. This Messiah would one day be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. He would rise again in life and victory. The promise of a Savior, Emmanuel, God with us, became flesh. But those promises weren't just seen from far away; the shepherds *responded*.

We hear God's Word all the time and the promises it holds. That we are made in His image. That if you confess your sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sins and purify you from all unrighteousness. That we are a new creation in Christ: the old has gone, the new is here. That if you seek Him first, He provides everything we need. That as we draw near to Him, He draws near to us. That we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, so that we may declare the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

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In *your* life, God has spoken promises: of identity, of purpose, of freedom, of His presence. God doesn't want them to remain far away. The Christmas story calls us to move. Once we hear God's call, we respond to *see it*. Seek Him above all. Set your eyes on the Lord. Because the pure in heart will not only know Him but see Him and His goodness, here, in the land of the living.

