



Go & See; Go & Tell
Luke 2:8-20

The great experiences of life are of course one's destiny, a gift of God and of his grace, but they nevertheless mostly only fall to the lot of those who are prepared to receive them. Otherwise the star rises above their lives but they are blind to it.

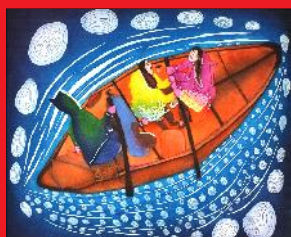


For the sublime hours of wisdom, art, and love, we must prepare ourselves wholly with soul and body. So it is with the great days on which we celebrate our redemption.



Do not leave them to chance; do not drift into them listlessly in an everyday frame of mind. Prepare yourself; determine to prepare yourself – that is the first thing.

Karl Rahner



Setting the Scene
Luke 2:8-9

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2:8-9

Bethlehem

- Small town, 5 miles south of Jerusalem
- The city of David
- The place of Ruth & Boaz
- Today – the church of the Holy Nativity



Shepherds

- Watching their flocks
- Protecting them
- Part of the lower class



Night

- Stillness
- Night sky
- On the hills outside of town



Angel

- Suddenly, a great light
- The angel appears & the shepherds are terrified – 'great fear'



The Great Reversal

- God comes to the poor & needy – lowly shepherds
- God comes to us in our littleness
- "Do not be afraid"



Proclamation
Luke 2:10-14

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' Luke 2:10-14

“Do not be afraid” (v10)

Why?

- Good news
- Great joy
- To all the people
- God's joy is greater than our gloomy day



“This day” (v11)

- A Kairos moment – a baby born
- 'Saviour', 'Christ' (Messiah), 'Lord'
- One who overcomes oppression/ the chosen one of God



“A sign” (v12)

- A baby lying in a manger
- God comes to the stable – not the palace
- A small sign – see God in the small things



Angel Choir (v13-14)

- The choir is praising God – giving glory to God
- God's visitation of peace (shalom) on earth



Solidarity

- An expression of God with us
- A call to watch and pay attention to God's presence with us
- We are not alone



- Live in awareness of God's presence
- In spite of obstacles we experience in our day to day



The Shepherds' Response

Luke 2:15-17

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'



So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

Luke 2:15-17



Go & See

- The shepherds represent Israel at its best
- Responsive to the angel's message
- They become a model for us to follow



Go & Tell

- They share the story with others
- They give their praise to God



The Shepherds' Impact

- The crowds are amazed; Mary ponders the truth in her heart
- The Shepherds' actions impact others
- An invitation to us



God's Reconciling Work

- The whole story centers on Jesus as our Saviour
- Jesus who brings peace to earth
- And our job to pass the peace on to others



Let us be kind! We have no right to demand a better world if we do not begin the improvement ourselves in our own heart. Let us be kind today! After all we do not have to be malicious and bitter and defend ourselves greedily and anxiously against others.

Karl Rahner