

**"THE FIRST TO
RECEIVE THE
GOSPEL"**



Luke 2:1-20

The word “Gospel” is translated from the Greek word meaning “Good News.”

The first to receive the Gospel were the shepherds in the field.

It wasn't to the kings, governors, or religious leaders. It was to shepherds!

Why the shepherds?

I believe the shepherds were the most sensitive to God's leading. That's why.

We should all be like the shepherds in that sense.

I. THEY WERE AFRAID: *(vs.9)*

A. Have you ever noticed how every encounter with an angel in the bible brings *fear*?

B. It is because angels are emissaries of God, to do His bidding – whether blessing or *judgment*.

C. When one encounters an all righteous and mighty God it is *time* to fear.



**II. THEY LEFT THEIR FLOCK TO
WHORSHIP THE LORD: *(vs, 15)***

A. It was not convenient.

B. It could have cost them their livelihood,
their entire flock.

**III. THEY DIDN'T PUT OFF WHAT GOD
HAD INSTRUCTED THEM TO DO:**

(vs. 16)

A. They didn't make excuses, or even consider the consequences.

B. They did what God instructed them and left it to Him to take care of them.

IV. THEY WERE COMMITTED TO THE TASK AT HAND: *(vs. 12)*

A. It was not an easy task.

B. The sign was not to find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, but to find one in a manger.

C. All new born babies were wrapped in swaddling cloths.

1. This was an Oriental custom – the way to dress a new born.

2. It was believed to help keep the insides in, until the skin strengthened.

V. ONCE THEY HAD MET JESUS THEY SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS:

(vs. 17)

A. They broadcast to everyone what they had been told by the angels.

B. They preached, they shared; they didn't mind folks saying they were fanatics!

C. They weren't concerned if it offended anyone.

VI. THEY WORSHIPPED GOD: *(vs.20)*

- A.** When a person has a real experience, intimate relationship, with Jesus they can do nothing but worship Him.
- B.** There is a certain joy in their heart, a certain bounce in their step, and a certain smile on their face.
- C.** Our greatest desire, as Christians, should be to worship and witness.

