

## Altapass Allegories

by

A Church Member

Dear Jesus, I come before You with an earnest Christmas prayer.

I have become so caught up with all the festivities I think I may have pushed You aside for things I consider more important. Regardless of one's age, there is a certain excitement in the air. There is an expectation that seems to go beyond all the preparations. True, the decorations, the beautiful lights, the tree, the good food, and the gathering of family and friends are all wonderful this time of year. The shining eyes of a little child is enough to warm my heart. I feel I stay so busy and race from one place to another until I'm exhausted and side tracked from the wonder of the night You came to earth.

So, Lord, I came to ask You to help me slow down. Slow me down so I can see with my heart the miracles of that Holy Night. Slow me down so I can imagine Mary and Joseph as they came to the inn. They must have been tired and walked slowly. As they went inside were they just grateful to rest? They must have known the birth was imminent. Did they know the manger waiting there was not an accident? Did Mary bring the swaddling clothes with her as she traveled? Were the cattle that were there restless or was there a Holy quietness?

The shepherds on the hill surely were not expecting anything but a routine night. They had a little fire to ward off the chill. I'm sure they were alert to the possibility of predators and were likely engaged in casual conversation. When the heavenly light appeared around them and the angels came with the greatest message ever given to man, they realized this was no ordinary sheep watching night. Did they leave someone watching the sheep or was this an event that was much more important?

So, Lord, my Christmas prayer is just help me slow down, enjoy all the ways we celebrate but most of all help me to see the miracle of Your birth and that wonder filled night so long ago. These few words are in no way sufficient to describe the true meaning of that night. I doubt if the whole world could tell it all.



*Merry Christmas*