

Altapass Allegories
by
A Church Member

The fire that had glowed so brightly had burned low. That was alright because now the stars shone with a friendly brightness above them. They pulled their cloaks tighter around themselves and settled down to wait for morning. Earlier, they had talked of many things, exchanging interesting stories and ideas. The need for conversation was past and the talk had dwindled to a few sleep-blurred words. The only sounds were the occasional crackling of the fire or soft bleat of a sheep.

The men were only doing their job, taking care that no predator came among the sheep to destroy and scatter the flock. They would never have guessed they had been chosen for a special purpose. After all, they had neither great credentials nor a prominent place in government. They were only a common crew performing the duties they were trained to do.

Now, without warning, they were startled into complete awareness. The brightness that surrounded them was like no other they had ever witnessed. They saw a figure in the light that certainly was not of this world. They trembled with fear. The figure spoke and his words were not only to them but to the whole world from that moment forward. Oh, what a message that was! “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” There was more to the message. They were told to find this most wonderful gift; so they left the sheep and went to find this Saviour the angel told them of. No time was wasted as they made their way to the place where the baby lay. When they looked into His face they knew this was no ordinary child. When they left they could not keep quiet about what they had seen and heard. Something so wonderful must be told.

Yes, they were lowly shepherds but what a blessed privilege they had been given! I wasn't there to witness the miracle the shepherds did, but one day I met the Saviour and I too must tell what I saw and heard! This Christmas my prayer for you is to truly experience the miracle and wonder of the first Christmas.

Have a Blessed Christmas!