

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Luke 2:8-9

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.”

If we ponder on the shepherds that we read of in Chapter 2:1-20 of Luke’s beautiful Gospel, we see that they were keeping watch over their flock during the night. Working in an obscure situation, they attended the flock with consistent watchfulness and care, applying themselves to give of their best to the task in hand.

Let us imagine these shepherds, sitting night after night under the canopy of the stars, contemplating the wonder of God’s creation and reaching out in faith and prayer to the Creator.

They were men carrying out a humble task, a job that wasn’t much thought of, but it was here, in their isolation, that the *“glory of the Lord”* shone around them. It was here that God spoke to these shepherds.

These humble shepherds were the first to be given news of the Saviour’s birth and by a direct messenger from Heaven! They were the first to preach the good news of the Saviour’s birth, for v. 17 reads *“they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child”*. They had the privilege of proclaiming the coming of *“a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord”* (2:11).

If anyone reading this, are for some reason feeling isolated, maybe feeling that what they do is not of any great significance, remember, shepherds in lonely fields might be out of sight of others, but not out of God’s sight, and neither are we.

Take heart, whatever your occupation; you are not out of God’s sight. God is a rewarder of those who seek Him, whether it be in fields or kitchen, city or bush; in the assignment of home duties, or the workplace; the encouraging word He gives, in Colossians 3:17 is:

“ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, the Father through Him.”

These words are a delight to read, stirring us to such a different perspective on menial tasks; to the realisation that cleaning the kitchen floor, or being at a factory bench, whatever we are doing can be with the joy of doing it as unto the Lord. What joy it is to know that His presence is with us in all those things, and that all our necessary daily functions are true service to Him if done with that motivation.

Let us honour Him, with the devotion of our hearts in the most menial tasks, seeing them as loving service to Him and, truly, the “GLORY OF THE LORD’ will shine around us as the joy of His glory enriches us within.