

## LUKE 2:1-20

A lot of attention was focused on the small town of **Bethlehem**. Jews from many parts of the world came to be counted in a census.

- **Mary** and **Joseph** travelled there from Nazareth.
- **Shepherds** came from the fields to see the Baby lying in a manger. A multitude of **angels** had come to announce, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (vv.13-14).

**Every Christmas, we** go to Bethlehem to celebrate Jesus' birth. But we cannot stay there; we must leave.

- The **angels** returned to heaven. **Mary** and **Joseph** went to Jerusalem, and then sought safety in Egypt. The **shepherds'** left the stable and **told** everyone about the Child.
- *"And all those who heard it marvelled at those things which were told them by the shepherds"* (v.18). We must do the same.

**What is the story we have to tell?**

### 1. An unusual place.

That morning, people were already on the streets.

- Store owners were unlocking the doors to their shops.
- The **owner of the inn** had awakened earlier than most in the town. After all, the inn was full, all the beds taken.
- .Did anyone ask about the of the **young couple**?
- If it was **raised**, it was not **discussed**.
- They were too busy.

### 2. An unusual event

- The stable stinks like all stables do.

**God had entered the world as a baby.**

God became a baby ... he was **born** in a stable.

*And all this was to prove that God still loves his people and provides a way for us to return to him.*

### 3. An unusual motive

- *What* God did makes sense.
- *Why* God did it is absolutely **absurd**. That type of love isn't logical; **only God could love like that.**

**In fact, the only thing more absurd than the gift is our unwillingness to receive it.**

*This season, let's join those who have gone forth from their visits to Bethlehem to proclaim the good news of Christ, who came to save us.*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere—  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!*

**The gospel is one gift you can keep and still pass on to others.**