

What Really Matters?

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Luke 2:8-20 (NLT)

Why It Sometimes Feels That We Don't Matter:

1. We might seem to have the wrong occupation.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

Luke 2:8 (NLT)

2. We might seem to not be where the action is.

*That night there were shepherds **staying in the fields nearby**, guarding their flocks of sheep.*

Luke 2:8 (NLT)

3. We might seem to do nothing new.

*That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, **guarding their flocks of sheep**. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,*

Luke 2:8-9 (NLT)

We Fail To See That We Matter Because:

- **When God speaks, we are fearful and reluctant.**

*Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. **They were terrified**, but the angel reassured them.*

Luke 2:9-10a (NLT)

- **God will speak to us in a way we can understand.**

***The Savior**—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.**" Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

Luke 2:11-14 (NLT)

- **Our response should be one of obedience.**

*When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "**Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.**" They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.*

Luke 2:15-16 (NLT)

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)