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*So Joseph also went up... to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

*There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace, to those on whom his favor rests."*

**Luke 2:4-14 (NIV)**

## AS WE LOOK AT THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE TO THIS ANGEL, WE CAN SEE THAT...

### 1. THEY WERE WILLING TO LISTEN.

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me.*

**John 10:27-28 (NLT)**

### 2. THEY WERE WILLING TO SET ASIDE THEIR PRECONCEPTIONS.

*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 2:13-14 (NLT)**

*For who is God besides the Lord?  
And who is the Rock except our God?*

**Psalm 18:31 (NIV)**

*As for God, his way is perfect:*

*The Lord's word is flawless;*

*he shields all who take refuge in him.*

**Psalm 18:30 (NIV)**

**"God cannot change for the better. Since He is perfectly holy, He has never been less holy than He is now and can never be holier than He has always been. Neither can God change for the worse. Any deterioration within the holy nature of God is impossible."**  
(A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

**James 1:17 (NIV)**

**"If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is."**  
(A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

### 3. THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."*

**Luke 2:15 (ESV)**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.*

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)**

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.*

**Luke 2:8 (NIV)**