

Advent Devotional - Day 16

December 16th



Scripture: Luke 2:19-20 Verse: *“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”*

Reflection:

The contrast between Mary’s quiet reflection and the shepherds’ exuberant praise is striking and deeply meaningful. Mary, having experienced the miraculous events surrounding Jesus’ birth, chose to treasure and ponder these moments in her heart. Her reflection signifies a deep, personal connection with God’s work in her life, a moment of internalizing the divine mystery she was part of.

On the other hand, the shepherds, filled with awe and joy, couldn’t contain their excitement. They glorified and praised God, sharing the good news with everyone they encountered. Their response was immediate and outward, spreading the message of Jesus’ birth far and wide.

In modern times, we can learn from both Mary and the shepherds. There are moments in our lives that call for quiet reflection and treasuring God’s work in our hearts. These are the times when we need to pause, reflect, and internalize the blessings and lessons God is imparting to us. Like Mary, we should take time to ponder and appreciate the depth of God’s love and the miracles He performs in our lives.

Conversely, there are also moments when we are called to be like the shepherds, to share our joy and the good news of God’s work with others. Our testimonies and praises can inspire and uplift those around us, spreading hope and faith.

Reflect on how you can balance these two responses in your own life. Are there moments you need to treasure and ponder more deeply? Are there opportunities to share your joy and praise with others? Embrace both the quiet reflection and the exuberant praise, allowing them to enrich your spiritual journey.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the examples of Mary and the shepherds. Help us to treasure and ponder Your work in our hearts, and to also share our joy and praise with others. Guide us to find the balance between quiet reflection and outward celebration, so that we may grow closer to You and spread Your love. Amen.



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