|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Site logo image | Martha Rodman posted: " Glory to God in highest, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased. Luke 2: 14 NLT. I admit it is hard for me to comprehend the word "glory". It is not a word that shows up in my vocabulary often! And in the same region there were shepherds" [**Faith Encounters**](http://faithencounters.impart.org) |

# [Faith and Shepherds](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ffaithencounters.impart.org%2F2023%2F12%2F21%2Ffaith-and-shepherds%2F&sr=0&signature=e94248d2f8293825e1ab38cbf44867de&blog_id=127938330&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=&_z=z)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3f13af1d3e2a35ad581f9ba697fd060a4b7d8a719664a4a449058f8ff4e8c587?s=96&d=identicon&r=G | **Martha Rodman**  Dec 21 |   Glory to God in highest, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased. Luke 2: 14 NLT.  I admit it is hard for me to comprehend the word "glory". It is not a word that shows up in my vocabulary often! And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they werer filled with great fear. One angel showing up brings the glory of the Lord to these shepherds, just one. Imagine, these shepherds were doing their normal watch...looking out for predators or wandering sheep when suddenly their whole night was shifted. It was a sudden change of events. An angel showing up would probably cause me to be afraid as well!  This angel says to them: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Wow--talk about a great interruption--an angelic visitation with good news.  We aren't told much more about these shepherds. They were available for interruption because they were watching! Some background study of the culture of the time, reveals that shepherds were considered even lower than Samaritans. They were not allowed to be witnesses in court cases, and they were considered untrustworthy because they had a reputation of being thieves. Yet, for some reason God decided to share the good news of Jesus' birth with these fellows.  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." Did you get that last phrase? Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom ***God is pleased.*** Maybe that is why the Angel came to the shepherds, to show them that God accepted them. A huge vast host of angels giving glory to God must have been amazing. As I was pondering this event, I was thinking about how these angels really knew, first hand, the God they were praising. When we really encounter Him, our praise is genuine.  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." I am sure there must have been some discussion about what to do with the sheep because after all, they were their livelihood. But they took the angels news as an invitation to go and see this grand event.  Do you think you would have gone? Or do you think you would have needed a clearer invitation? The Holy Spirit must have motivated them to simply follow the clues given. Hmm, you will find him wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. They knew about mangers, I am sure, and they probably knew that mangers would be found in a barn like structure--so off they went. They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. Amazing, right?  But then, God used them to spread the good news. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. They became the first evangelists! 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 2:18-20. NLT.  The shepherds took up the praise and glorifying God, like the angels. Our God is moving amongst us and is answering prayer. I've watched Him this week change discouragement and depression into hope. Bring financial blessings to those who need it, because He is a real God, still doing real things. He is saving people from their sins and from themselves. For that I can only give Him the glory. This is a gift we can give our Heavenly Father, glory.  Father, I thank you for showing me new things in this familiar story. I ask you help me and your children to take the time to glorify your name, as you deserve. Let me not take you for granted. I am so grateful you came to the shepherds and used them to spread your good news. It gives me hope you can use me. Thank you, in Jesus' Name, amen. |