SILENT AND NOT SO SILENT NIGHT

Luke 2:8 KJV

[8] And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

“Silent night, Holy night, all is calm all is bright.” These words describe what we think about the time of Jesus birth.  Luke 2:8 is the only verse that mentions “night.”  This is when the shepherds received word that Jesus was born.  If he was born at night, I wonder if it was silent.  If animals were present, were they silent?    Were the parents of this glorious child silent?  There was some pondering going on.  Mary pondered these things and I’m sure Joseph did quite a bit of pondering himself.  There was likely some time of silent thought on what God was doing in their lives.  As we think on the birth of Jesus there should be some time where we think about what his birth means to us as individuals.  Silent reflection and meditation is good for us when we are thinking on Godly things. Today, it seems that Christmas is anything but silent. We are hounded with commercials that are loud and every store is offering deals to rope you into their store where you can’t move for all the people and you can’t hear for all the noise. Set aside some time for silence and contemplation during this Holy season.

But then it was not so silent a night either. When the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord was shining everywhere, we are told that they were sore afraid. I take from those words that the shepherds were probably not silent. The angel spoke of good tidings of great joy. Those are not words that would be whispered. No as this takes place it is not silent. The words spoken by the angel were not to be missed or misunderstood. Surely they were spoken plain and loud. When you get a multitude of heavenly host praising God it is anything but quiet. Consider what they were saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” You don’t normally say “Glory to God” in quiet tones. No, we say these words out loud with full force! So, I think it safe to say that this was not a silent night.

I bring up the silence and the not so silence to make this point. We need the quiet for reflection on the greatest gift ever given. In the silence may we see how much God loves us by giving us the gift of His Son. From that silent reflection we may be led to worship God aloud for the display of his great love for us. Let us lift up our voices in song unto God as we sing the glorious carols of Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram