

Luke 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Analysis

The shepherds, 'when they had seen it, made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.' Their response to seeing was proclamation—faith that sees must tell. The phrase 'made known abroad' (Greek 'egnōrisan') indicates they publicized what they had been told. They proclaimed not merely that they saw a baby but repeated the angels' theological interpretation—this child is Savior, Christ the Lord. Their witness demonstrates that encountering Christ produces testimony. As first evangelists, shepherds model the pattern: hear revelation, investigate by faith, find Christ, proclaim what God has revealed. They didn't add their opinions but faithfully reported the angels' message.

Historical Context

The shepherds' testimony in Bethlehem would have spread news of the supernatural birth announcement and messianic claims. Their witness prepared the community to pay attention to this unusual child. As social outcasts, their testimony carried weight precisely because they had nothing to gain from fabrication.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does genuine encounter with Christ produce testimony and proclamation?
2. Why is it important to proclaim what God has revealed rather than our opinions?
3. What does God's use of shepherds as first evangelists teach about whom He calls to witness?

Interlinear Text

ιδόντες	δὲ	διεγνώρισαν	περὶ	τοῦ		
when they had seen	And	it they made known abroad	concerning	which		
G1492	G1161	G1232	G4012	G3588		
ῥήματος	τοῦ	λαληθέντος	αὐτοῖς	περὶ	τοῦ	παιδίου
G4487	which	was told	them	concerning	which	child
	G3588	G2980	G846	G4012	G3588	G3813
τούτου						
this						
G5127						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 66:16 (Parallel theme): Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

Luke 8:39 (Parallel theme): Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Luke 2:38 (Parallel theme): And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Malachi 3:16 (Parallel theme): Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was

written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

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