

December 29th 2013 Luke 2:8-20 "Time To Leave The Stable"

The actual celebration of Christmas always seems...over so quickly

But I would have to say...this year.....amazing Christmas celebration

Carols night.....35+.....involved

And Christmas Day.....quite incredible because of.....involvement

The choir and musicians...delightful

But all that is now in the past.....Soon the decorations will be taken down

AND IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE THE STABLE.

For of course.....that's the reality.....what happened 2,000 years ago

It would be ridiculous.....to worship Jesus....as tho.....still a baby in
What use would God as a baby be.....

But of course....he didn't stay.....**He** left and went on to.....
To ascend to.....calling us to follow Him

Us to be the soldiers of the cross.....**To own Him** as Lord
To look towards His coming again in triumph

Then as well as Christ leaving.....**The** others who.....left it too
Each with a specific agenda to follow

Things we are told they did.....which we who are believers
Can to some degree.....do too.....As we move on from...stable

Let's consider Mary first

As she prepared to move on from that stable.....

conscious of the unknown future stretching out B4.....v19 says

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

All the things that had happened....been told.....She treasured
Keep them as precious thoughts....must never be lost
Pondered

Mary left that stable.....thinking....and treasuring her thoughts.

Will you take some thought away.....Some truth that touched
And treasure it.....and ponder.....**Will** you write it down
Keep it safe.....Make it a precious thing...your life???

And will you do this....not just at Christmas...

To collect in some way.....to ponder.....All the wonderful truths

Journal

THEN THERE'S JOSEPH

Joseph left that stable determined....to follow the Lord's instructions
In the law.....regarding his son.

There were obligations....God put on all fathers

So 8 days later.....

40 days after that.....

God still has His set commands.....for all believers

Are there some that you need to follow....as you leave the stable

BAPTISM

COMMUNION

FELLOWSHIPPING.....IN ORDER TO WORSHIP Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching

GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK.....

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

16 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

COMMITMENT TO THE BODY

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:27

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Then finally there are the Shepherds

Luke tells us in Luke 2:17-18.....20

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.....

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told

The Shepherds left the Stable.....sharing the good news
The Shepherds left the Stable spreading the word
The Shepherds left the Stable glorifying and praising God.

If they had left the stable without.....

God would not have been glorified.....**And** others....not...heard

The same is true for us

God wants us to leave the Stable like the Shepherds

If you sensed God speaking.....then tell someone

Write to someone about your experience of Christmas

Let others know that you worshipped the baby born King...