



‘FOLLOW THE CHRISTMAS RUSH CROWD’

Luke 2:8-20 Scripture Text: Luke 8:15, 16

There are two shopping days left before we celebrate the day, which we say that Jesus was born. Only two days left to purchase, the gifts, which we feel, will give our family and friends some joy. Most people have waited until the final hours before Christmas Day to run around and do what is called ‘last minute’ shopping. Stores are open all night, parking lots are full, Sale signs are glowing on every aisle, emotions are at an all time high, patience is at a premium, funds are limited and the clock seems to be moving at an accelerated pace.

When the factors all converge on your life you feel pushed, or caught up in the “Christmas rush.” This behavior manifests itself differently in different people, however the results are the same—frustration and weariness. The Christmas rush has resulted in families being disconnected, homes being destroyed and relationships being abruptly terminated. To rush is not necessarily a bad act, unless what one is rushing to is not fulfilling.

In this story of the birth of Jesus, I think we can learn a lot about living from the original Christmas rush. In Luke 2:15-20 we find the perfect example of a Christmas rush scene, but it is so much more humane than we find in our daily struggles. The persons involved in the first Christmas rush were the shepherds. We find them casually watching sheep when all of a sudden an announcement was broadcast in bright, heavenly lights and accentuated with music and song. They knew something spectacular was to occur and they felt anxious. They felt deep anticipation and wanting to know more. They wanted to see what was ahead. After they hear “The Good News,” which was, and still is, simply an invitation to find Jesus (Luke 2:16), they moved with haste. They packed up and ran. They rushed to Bethlehem to see if the words of the angels were true. That was the first Christmas rush.

Just like the Christmas rushes today, they were in a hurry to find the perfect gift. They knew what they were looking for, they knew where to look, they did not know the cost, but they were determined to find God’s gift to the world. Let us learn from their example and maybe our modern Christmas rushes will have more meaning.

- I. They were available to the Angels.
- II. They were receptive to the Message from God.
- III. They had an emergency Called Meeting after they heard the Message.
- IV. They made an immediate decision to go to find the Crowds in Bethlehem.
- V. They found the gift which is a verb meaning ‘they were searching.’
- VI. They saw the Gift and became living Witnesses telling others about Jesus and all Who heard about Jesus’ miracles, through them, were marveled.
- VII. Like today, “Mary was quiet and pondered these events in her heart.”

The great lesson for you and me to learn is that after the shepherds endured their searching during the first Christmas rush, they “returned home glorifying, testifying, and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. (Luke 2:20)

DON’T RUSH TO BUY A GIFT. RATHER RUSH TO FIND “THE GIFT” AND THEN GIVE “THAT GIFT” AWAY.

Now RUSH and TELL somebody about “THE GIFT” you receive everyday from God.

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