

## Go Tell It!

Do you remember singing, “Go Tell It on the Mountain?” It is the carol about the shepherds who visited the manger scene on the night that Christ was born. Luke tells us the story of how an angel appeared to shepherds telling them that a Savior had been born to them. The announcement is finalized by a host of angels praising God and then disappearing. The shepherds respond by saying, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see...”

It records that they went and found Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in the manger. Then the text says, “When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” The next verse says, “and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.” This is the background of the Carol, “Go Tell It on the Mountain.”

The chorus of that great carol says, “Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.” It is interesting that this carol tells of the beginning of the Jesus story but Jesus own last words are similar. Matthew 28:19 records Jesus as saying, “go and make disciples of all nations.”

So down through the centuries we Christians have not ceased going and telling that Jesus is the Hope they have been looking for. We do that in multiple ways from feeding and clothing the poor and needy to teaching, preaching and discipling. Every act is about going and telling because we know that Christ the ultimate answer. Like the shepherds we have been touched by Christ’s love and we want all the world to experience what we have. So we go and tell!

As we take up today’s offering I wanted us to understand the background and basis for why we do what we do, to go and tell. Every time you give here you are helping the going and telling of this incredible Christmas story. The world may only celebrate Christmas for a season. For we Christians the act of Christ’s birth is a yearlong and life long celebration that we want everyone to experience. So we go and tell it to this day. Giving generously today allows us to continue our mission of going and telling!