

DAY 7: Time to ponder – Mary and Joseph’s hearts in the manger

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” Luke 2:19

After the angel appeared to the shepherds, they went into town where they found baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph. The shepherds’ excitement with the news received must have been contagious to all around, especially to Mary and Joseph, who until that moment were probably still in shock for what had happened to them. We are told Mary pondered what they were saying in her heart.

Could you imagine what went through Mary’s mind? We may think of the lyrics of the song “Mary did you know?”. The shepherd’s words were probably causing awe, fear, wonder all at once.

We ponder what is most precious or of most concern to us. It is that process of the heart of ‘looking back’ after the fact or ‘looking forward’ into the future that direct our spirit to the next step. No doubt Simeon’s words to Mary that ‘a sword would pierce her own soul’ (2:35) would also be pondered later.

What about Joseph’s deepest thoughts? Would he be thinking how could he provide for Mary and the baby in the future, or what could he teach this baby, God in flesh? Mary and Joseph didn’t have all the answers. They had faith and trusted God.

What things are we to ponder these days? 2020 has been a year of so many unexpected things...a world crisis with a pandemic, a total change of life as we knew it, social tension, violence and division. Fears of what may come next... Let’s ponder about God’s faithfulness in sustaining us to this day. His promises to

guide us no matter what comes, remain true. In Him we can trust.

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always time to rejoice. Sing today’s carol with joy and gratitude for we, the weary world, can rejoice in the savior born.



O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Saviour’s birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
O’er the world a star is sweetly gleaming
Now come the wisemen from out of the Orient land
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friends
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother
And in his name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
With all our hearts we praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!