

DEVOTIONAL SERIES
SEE, AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW
MAJOR TERESA DECKER



"My soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in His Salvation" (Psalm 35:9 KJV).

One afternoon while at work, my phone buzzed. As I opened the message, I saw the most beautiful sight that a new grandmother could behold. There he was - a precious little gift as our grandson had made his way into the world. I felt such joy and excitement at that moment, and I couldn't wait to go and share this exciting news with family and friends. When you receive exciting news, who do you tell first? Usually, it's those who are closest to us; those who are most important in our lives. They are the ones who we know are trustworthy and will celebrate and rejoice with us.

In his hymn, *See, Amid the Winter's Snow*, Edward Caswell captures the scene of that very first Christmas and tells the story of the nativity from the viewpoint of the shepherds. When God had some good news to share, who did He tell first? A few ordinary shepherds! How extraordinary is that! Can you imagine the excitement of the shepherds as they learned of the Saviour's birth? The breathless joy and reverent awe they must have felt upon hearing the angelic announcement of the promised Messiah. The "sacred infant, all divine" had come.

Scripture says that the shepherds "hurried off" as soon as they heard the news (Luke 2:16). They didn't question or wait for confirmation. With hearts full of hope, they immediately went to see the Saviour. After seeing Him, they spread the word about God's "tender Lamb." I love how Eugene Peterson captures it in verse 20 of *The Message* translation: *"The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen."*

Just to think that Jesus emptied Himself of the full manifestation of His glorious divinity, left His privileged position in Heaven, veiled Himself in human flesh, and came to dwell among man – is one of the most beautiful incomprehensible moments for us as Christians. It is no wonder the shepherds were so excited; they had just witnessed the most remarkable of all events. Once they had seen such glory, their praise bubbled over from transformed hearts. God, in His love and mercy, sent His Son to bring "redemption's happy dawn" into our lives! This is news worth celebrating and sharing with the whole world.

How eager are you to share the good news of salvation? Who can you share this good news with today?

Prayer

Lord, You are the Redeemer of the world and Saviour of our souls. Your humble birth has shown us the depth of Your incredible love for us! Help us to be bold and joyful in sharing the good news of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we be filled with the same excitement and urgency as the shepherds to spread Your message of love and salvation to the world. Amen.