

Carols for the King: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

(*Various Texts*)

The Story behind the Song

- The song was originally a Negro Spiritual
 - Songs sung by slaves as they worked in the fields & worshipped together
- It was put in a collection by John Wesley Work, Jr. in 1907

The Meaning of the Song

- The song is a retelling of the Nativity story, with each stanza advancing the story:
 - The angels appearing to the shepherds (Luke 2:8-9)
 - The announcement of the birth of the Savior (Luke 2:10-14)
 - The manger holding Christ, the bringer of salvation (Luke 2:15-16)
- The refrain is centered on the response of the shepherds to finding the baby Jesus (Luke 2:17-18)
 - They told whoever would listen about this newborn King

The Message of Christmas

- As much as the message of Christmas is about Jesus being born, it is also a reminder of why He was born
- He came to save us
 - That is not a message for a single day or even season of the year
 - That is a message that is constantly needed to be heard
- The message of the manger is the message of the Cross
- And we are called to proclaim this Good News of Jesus to whoever will listen (Mark 16:15)
 - Just like those shepherds

So What?

- Do we know Jesus as Savior?
- Are we proclaiming Him to all who will listen?

Meditation Verse: *Luke 2:17-18*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While Shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus

That hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.