

## Visions and Revelations Message 5: “The Shepherds in the Field”

Brothers and sisters, this virus has certainly caused us all to be unsettled. We can no longer live by our previous routines, comforts, and ways. Is it a bad thing that we have become unsettled? Not at all! The Lord actually never wants us to be settled in our lives. After all, His son was born on the side of a road! Jesus’ birth itself shows us that he was never going to live a settled life. During his ministry he said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head”. A settled life can cause us to become rigid and possibly unwilling to follow the Lord’s leading. However, if we are unsettled in our life, if the Lord says, “Go here!”, then we go there. If He says, “Do this!”, then we do that, and we do it without reluctance. When the angel appeared to the shepherds in Luke and told them to go to Bethlehem to see the Christ, they immediately went in haste to Bethlehem. We need to be following the example of the way Jesus and the shepherds lived their lives. We need to always be unsettled. Only this way can we be fully faithful to what the Lord wants from us in our lives.

We can all learn from some of the characteristics that were pointed out about the shepherds. They were people who were common, simple, and faithful. They were taking care of their sheep at night when the angel called them to Bethlehem. On our end, we often are fighting for a comfortable, prevailing, and peaceful church life. In a way even this can become very settled, and belonging to the day. The truth is that until the Lord comes back, we are still in the night. How many of us can say that, “I fellowship with the sufferings of Christ. Christ went through death, I will go through night. Christ had a hard life, I will have a hard life too”. When we try to be settled in our life, we often are trying to avoid sufferings and hardships. But to follow the Lord’s will, we inevitably will go through difficult times. For instance, when a brother or sister decides to serve the Lord full-time, they will often go through financial hardship. They will have to live frugally and give up things they had previously enjoyed. No more vacations to Hawaii, no more dinners at Michelin Star restaurants, and no more living in million-dollar mansions. But if I am truly for the Lord’s will, then I am willing to give up all these things for Him. Christ had a hard life, I will have a hard life too. This is just one example, but all of us need to be willing to give up worldly comforts in order to shepherd the Lord’s flock the way He wants it to be shepherded. Lord, please give us this way of living! We want to be unsettled in our lives, willing to go where You want us to go, willing to do what you want us to do, and willing to give up what you want us to give up. Lord have mercy on us, so that we can live and walk in this way!