



“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them...” (Luke 2:8-9)

Who are those entrusted with
the good news?

The *Anawim*

- The unprotected and outcast
- “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”
(Luke 5:31-32)



To the *Anawim* God says...

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her...16 And it shall be, in that day, Says the Lord, That you will call Me My Husband, And no longer call Me My Master, For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more... I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy... Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, You are My people! And they shall say, You are my God!”
(Hos. 2:14, 16-17, 19, 23)

The Gospel is entrusted to the *Anawim*

- “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”
(1 Cor. 1:27-29)



Outcasts of the Nativity Narrative

- Zacharias and Elizabeth
- The Virgin Mary
- The shepherds



The Reaction¹

- “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15)
 - Go and see
- “Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.” (Luke 2:17)
 - Tell others

The Reaction²

- Tell others
 - “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also)...” (Luke 2:34-35)
- Indifference
 - What gives evil power is our indifference

Conclusion

- God deeply loves you
- God knows our life from within
- We are the shepherds; the *Anawim*