

7. WHO KNEW FIRST?

*Lord Jesus,
help me to think about you, learn
more about you, and love you today.*

READ: MATTHEW 28:16-20

Do you know who was the first to hear that Jesus was going to be born?

Was it the shepherds? Well, no; they didn't hear until after Jesus had been born.

Was it the Wise Men? They had a long, long journey to go. No, I don't think it was them. They wouldn't have taken nine months to get to Bethlehem.

Then it must have been Mary! She had known for nine months. But no, it wasn't Mary.

So, if it wasn't the Wise Men, or the shepherds, or Mary, who did God tell first?

Well, who told Mary? It was the angel Gabriel.

Do you know what the name Gabriel means? It means, 'God is mighty'. I wonder if, when God was deciding which angel he would send, he thought, 'Since my Son is the mighty God, I think I'll send the angel whose name means "God is mighty".'

So Gabriel could have said, 'I was the first one to hear.' But it doesn't matter all that much who was the first to hear the news, does it? The important thing was that everybody heard it—Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men, and everyone with whom they shared the news.

If you read Matthew's Gospel you will see something very interesting. It begins with people coming from far away to learn about Jesus. It ends with Jesus telling his disciples to go to people far away, everywhere in the world, to tell them the good news about his love.

It's still important that everybody hears about Jesus. Perhaps you are the only one of your friends who has heard the good news about Jesus. Do you think you could tell them about him? We can ask him to help us to do that. And when we do, we'll be like the angel Gabriel! Isn't that amazing?

Lord Jesus,

We thank you that your Father sent the angel, Gabriel, to tell Mary you were going to be born. Thank you for the way the news spread. We know that it hasn't reached some people yet. Please send Christians to tell them. And please help us to tell someone else about you.

Amen.