

## The Shepherd's Little Girl

Legend has it that one of the shepherds who heard the angels announcing the coming of Christ had his little daughter with him in the fields. When the men started out to seek the newborn King of the Jews, she begged to go along.

In their excitement and eagerness to get there as soon as possible, the shepherds paid no attention to the children. Not to be denied, the little girl followed with her faithful dog.

As the group entered the stable, she hung back at the door. Wistfully, she watched each of the shepherds – who thought the Baby should have some gifts and had hurriedly found humble woodcarvings and other handcrafts they had fashioned in their time on the hills with the sheep – lay their presents before the manger. What could she give? She had nothing.

Suddenly, beside her there appeared an angel who asked the cause of her sorrowful expression. When she told of her regret that she had nothing to offer, the angel advised her to pick one of the roses growing nearby. Hardly believing her ears, she looked around and there beside the entrance were some beautiful white roses.



Eagerly, she clutched an armful and hurried in to place them beside the Infant. His eyes were closed at the time, and she wondered if her gift would be acceptable.

But the Christ-child opened His eyes and smiled just as she placed the roses before Him.

Today, we don't stand in a stable near a manger, but we do find ourselves in the presence of Jesus, preparing to celebrate His birthday.

What gift do you have for Him? You can give Him your heart. That is the gift He will treasure most.

– Beecher Hunter