

## **Going Back**

Returning With Joy

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- It is wonderful our society recognizes this day and makes it a holiday although different this year.
- Going back is a part of life
- It's a part of being faithful to our responsibilities
- The question is, "How do we go back?"
- Luke 2:15-20

## **Mary Went Back**

- Mary had begun the life time work of being a mother
- The feedings and diapers were interrupted by the shepherds
- Stories of the Angel and the Angel choir
- Mary and Joe did not see the angels, just the shepherds
- 19 - Mary "Treasured" - pondered
- 2:51 – His birth, the shepherds, the magi, Egypt, now asking questions and being questioned by the top religious teachers

## **The Shepherds Went Back**

- The shepherds went back changed
- They had an encounter with God
  - They were transformed from Social Rejects to Ambassadors for the King
- They returned telling what they knew
  - These were not theologians
  - They shared what happened in their encounter with God
- It made a difference in others lives

## **The Shepherds Went Back**

- They went back overflowing with Joy
  - They reflected the Angels message
  - Praising God for what they had HEARD and SEEN, which was just as they had been told.
    - The Word of God is Trustworthy
    - They acted on God's word, found God faithful, they were changed
  - When we have an encounter with the Christ of Christmas, the result will be joy. Wise Men – Matt.2:10

## **How Are We Going Back?**

- Have we heard God's Word?
- What did God say to you this Christmas?
- Have we had an encounter with the Living Christ of Christmas?
- Have we allowed and allowing Him to Transform our lives?
- Are our Lives overflowing with Joy?
- Its not too late to find the time to be quiet and meet with Jesus.