

Pastor's Corner

The Magi's Journey

December 5, 2007

Dear Friend,

Can you believe that December is already here? This year seemed to just fly by, didn't it? One thing I like about December is the Holiday season, and it reminds me of Jesus. I know it has become very commercialized; but the carols, the nativity scenes, and the other things that remind us of Christ's birth help me to close out the year thinking about Jesus.

This last week I have been studying the story of the Magi, or the wise men, found in [Matthew 2](#). And as I was reading it over and thinking about it, several points came to mind that about their story that I can apply to my life, and I wanted to share with you. Some of these points may apply to you as well.

1. ***God always sends directions. Follow the light you've been given.*** Remember how the wise men got the idea to head to the west to see the new King? It wasn't an official letter or even a vision. An angel didn't show up in a spectacular way, or even a miraculous burning bush. No, it was a star. Something that can only be seen when it's dark, and that's easy to miss if one doesn't look up.
2. ***When you follow God's directions, it will cause a disturbance.*** When they came to Jerusalem, instead of a huge celebration for the new little King, they were met with suspicion and fear, not unmingled with contempt. Has that ever happened to you? You want to make a new start, do the right thing and you excitedly tell others; and, instead of rejoicing with you and encouraging you, they only put you down and generally make such a commotion that you wished you had never even tried to change.
3. ***God has reasons for leading like He does.*** After they were in Jerusalem, they started out and found the star again. What's up with that? Why didn't the star just head to Bethlehem to begin with? It would have saved a lot of headaches later down the road if Herod had been kept in the dark, right? But that's the human way of thinking. God loves everyone, and He wanted to send a message to the people in Jerusalem. He used dignitaries from another country, people they couldn't ignore and who would make a vivid impression on minds when they said to them, "Hey, where *is* the Baby that has been born King of the Jews?" Now it was up to them to go and search for Him as well but they didn't. They didn't act on the information they were given.
4. ***God wants more than just our worship.*** Herod promised to worship the new Baby, and later the priests promised to believe Him if He would work a miracle, if He would come down from the cross. But the Magi didn't wait for the new King to do anything for them. They worshiped Him, and then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him their treasures. Are you waiting for God to do something for you before you give Him your life?



5. ***God guides us one step at a time, just when we need it.*** After they saw the new Baby, they had a dream in which God told them to go home a different way. God didn't give them all the directions they needed right at the beginning, before they even left their homes. *"Now, you follow the star to Jerusalem; you'll get more instructions there from the priests and the Scriptures, then the star will go to Bethlehem and rest on a house, then you come back another way because Herod is devious."* No, they only got the instructions as they needed them and no sooner. Isn't that the same way with us? God doesn't tell us the whole future; otherwise the trials and heartache would keep us from enjoying the blessings and happiness. Instead, He leads us just one step at a time.

Next week let's look at some other individuals that played a part in the early life of Christ.

Have a great week! I'm praying for you!

Mark