

“WALKING TO CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS”

“When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem ² and said, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

³ When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴ Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

⁵ They told him, “He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,

⁶ “Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.”

⁷ Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. ⁸ He told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find Him, let me know. I want to go and worship Him too.”

⁹ The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

¹¹ When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, His mother, they knelt down and worshiped Him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to Him. ¹² Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.”

- Matthew 2:1-12 (CEV)

In the rush of the Christmas season things get a little out of focus. Today we will see a familiar story and find some simple observations for our lives.

1. God speaks our language.

“We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him...” - Matthew 1:1

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them...” - Luke 2:8,9

- *God spoke to the Wise Men through a star*
- *God spoke to the Shepherds through angels*

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life...” - 1 John 1:1,2

2. People are led to Jesus in different ways.

“As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.” - Matthew 9:9

“As [Saul] neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” - Acts 9:3,4

“Jesus looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’” - Luke 19:5

3. God uses that which is consecrated to Him.

“We saw **His** star in the east and have come to worship Him...” - Matthew 1:2

4. God places a desire in our hearts to find Jesus.

“Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” - Matthew 1:2

5. Those who were farthest away wanted to get closest to Him.

“During this time some wise men **from the east** came to Jerusalem...” - Matthew 1:1

6. Those who searched for Christ experienced Him completely.

“The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, His mother, they knelt down and worshiped Him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to Him.” - Matthew 1:9-11

7. Once they experienced Christ, they obeyed the Father.

“Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.” - Matthew 1:12

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