

Dec. 19th Christmissed - part 2

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

The story of the wise men is a story that is shrouded in mystery. For example:

- How many were there? We don't know.
- Where did they come from? We don't know.
- How long did their journey take? We don't know.

1. A wise man's journey is one of FAITH.

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East."

They had faith that He was alive – that He existed – now all they needed to do was to find Him. Their purpose was established – find Him. And so they were willing to risk everything to find Him.

God's journeys always involve FAITH.

There is that step of faith that we all take. All the questions aren't settled, maybe all the empirical truth is not laid out before you, but you know that something is moving you on the inside to respond to God. You made the same step when you fell in love, or got married, or went to school, or started a job, or had kids. In fact, we make a lot of major decisions in life based on limited knowledge.

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. Heb. 11:6 MSG

2. A wise man's journey is one of WORSHIP.

When the wise men came on their journey it was for the purpose of worship. They brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts have a lot of symbolism associated with them. Gold represents wealth. It is a gift fit for a king. (Jesus was the King of Kings) Frankincense is the sap of a tree that was dried and hardened and used as incense to worship God. Thus we see a gift for his deity. (Jesus was the Son of God) Myrrh is a fragrant perfume that was used to anoint the dead – to embalm and preserve them. (Jesus was The Sacrificial Lamb).

Worship always involves SACRIFICE.

"I will not offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost [me] nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24

What God wants most of all – above everything else is ME.

3. A wise man's journey is one of CHANGE.

"Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way."

After they worshiped Jesus that they could not go back the same way that they had come?

I can't imagine someone coming into contact with Christ and not having their life transformed so they go away in a new direction.

I remember how my encounter with Christ changed the course and direction of my life. I felt I was going nowhere and then I met God and He began to show me that as I yield more of my life to Him, trusted Him, and let Him lead, He had an incredible destiny for me.

Its Christmas time and we hear the story of the Wisemen. They were wise because they had faith, they were wise because they worshiped and they were changed forever – all because of a child. How about you? Are you looking for a change in your life? Find Christ this Christmas and I can guarantee that you will be changed.