

The Christmas Story ~ Today: Learning from the Wise Men
December 10, 2006

The verses used in today's talk were Matthew chapter 2 verses 1 - 12 (734)

The Wise Men were smart enough not to attempt this difficult journey alone. Am I as wise?

- The wise men understood that a trip like this could never be accomplished solo
- They had to surround themselves with those who would share their dream & commitment
- Who have I surrounded myself with?
- Who is it in life that's sharing my journey & challenging me towards full-devotion in Christ?
- How would others describe those that I have chosen to surround myself with?

What's with the star?

- Centuries before Jesus was born, the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem & deported the best & brightest back to Babylon. Daniel was one of these
- Daniel very likely introduced these people to God & to the idea that a Jewish King was coming
- ***I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.*** Numbers chapter 24 verse 17 (127)

The Wise Men were smart enough to worship Christ? Am I as wise?

- Worship mean that I give worth to someone, something
- We are all worshippers. The question is WHAT we worship
- It's easy to figure out what I worship. It's what I give my time, money & attention to
- So, what do I worship? How much of my life is spent "giving worth" to Jesus?

The Wise Men humbled themselves before Christ & others? Am I as wise?

- The wise men bowed down before Christ, an act of worship & humility
- These powerful & wealthy men humbled themselves before Jesus, Mary & their entourage
- ***The Lord is great, He cares for the humble, but He keeps His distance from the proud.***
Psalm 138 verse 6 (476)
- How humble am I? Am I willing to admit my sin? To ask for forgiveness? To lay my plans aside? To give preference to others & their needs & hopes?

The Wise Men knew that real worship cost them? Am I as wise?

- It's easy to get all excited & emotional in "worship," but a true worshiper is a giver. I do not truly worship when it costs me nothing!
- Jesus talked more about \$\$ than just about any other topic, because he knew that how I handle my \$\$ reveals what is really in my heart
- God says that the purpose of tithing is to teach me to ***"always to fear (revere) the Lord your God."*** Deuteronomy chapter 14 verse 23 (151)

The Wise Men allowed God to "interrupt" their lives, their plans & their schedules. Am I as wise?

- Because the wise men lived lives of worship & humility, they "allowed" God to change their plans, to redirect their paths
- They looked for and acknowledged the "mysterious" role that God and his promptings played in their lives
- Do I?