

## Wise Men Sermon

Preached 12/18/22 @ Cloverdale BC

### Matthew 2:1-13

**Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”**

Wise men – a lot of speculation about them. Bible doesn't tell us how many of them there were. Speculation and assumptions are that they were Gentiles, priests, kings, astrologers, mystics, etc. I don't know so let's just talk about what we do know and just deal with the facts the Bible gives us.

Important to get and have wisdom. We need wisdom to make wise decisions.

**Ten** things that these wise men did that truly qualify as wise decisions. You can be smart and not be wise.

1. Look for signs of hope.
  - a. They were constantly looking and searching for a sign in the stars. That's what they did and that's who they were. God gives them a sign.....meets them where they are.
  - b. Whatever your situation and whatever you're into, you should be looking for a sign of hope.
2. They start looking for Jesus. Once they saw the sign, they recognized the need to find Jesus.
  - a. If the sign is from God, it always will point to Jesus. They recognized they needed to find and get to Jesus.
3. They move. Getting there was the objective.
  - a. They made that trip, packed up their camels and moved.
  - b. One thing to know about Jesus, its one thing to recognize the signs, but it's another thing to walk in faith....another different thing to apply what you know.
  - c. When they saw where they were, saw their current condition and compared that to where they needed to be, they knew they needed to move in order to get there, because if they stayed where they were, they would never receive or enjoy the hope they desired. You won't experience it if you don't move.
  - d. We will miss Jesus if we don't move.
  - e. Too many people want things to land in their lap; don't want to work for it. There is a part you must play in getting your breakthrough.
  - f. When you find out that the King is in the neighborhood, that is a good sign you need to move.
  - g. Signs are out there but we ain't always moving....you have to move!
    - i. Can't graduate if you don't move to study.
    - ii. Can't get a better job if you ain't looking.
    - iii. Can't have a great relationship if you ain't moving to work at it.
    - iv. Can't really see God in your future until you move from only seeing your past. Push your neighbor.
4. Wise people will check their status to make sure they are still on the right path.
  - a. Wise people have sense enough to ask for directions in case they get lost along the way.

- b. Wise people don't just rely on assumptions, they ask to make sure.

**<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:**

**<sup>6</sup>'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.'** ”

**<sup>7</sup>Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."**

- 5. Wise people make sure Jesus is there .
  - a. Went to the place where they assumed the King of the Jews would be; Jerusalem, where the temple was. He wasn't there! They just thought he would be there.
  - b. People will visit church expecting to see Jesus but you can't assume that every church and every person has Jesus. You better check it out when you get there.
  - c. You might find Jesus in an unlikely place. Might not be where you expect him. Jerusalem was huge, but he wasn't there. He might not be in some of the big places you would expect, you can often find him in the small obscure places.
  - d. Not only was Jesus not there, the people were not happy about the news. People that really want to worship can make other church folk uncomfortable. People who really want to experience God make other folk who don't uncomfortable.
- 6. Wise people do something with what they know. Take advantage of what they know.
  - e. Church folks in Jerusalem knew about the Savior. They knew the scripture. They knew prophesy concerning the King of the Jews.
  - f. They had all of this knowledge but not one of them made a move to find Jesus. Never used the knowledge they had. That's stupid. Only about 5 miles away but didn't move. Educated fools.
    - i. They were comfortable right there, even though Jesus wasn't there.
  - g. A lot of people today know something about God, and know Jesus, and they can tell you some scriptures, but many people ain't doing anything with it.

**<sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.**

- 7. Wise people keep going until they get there.
  - h. Had three options; they could have turned around and gone back home without ever experiencing Jesus.

- i. Could have stayed right there, closer than they were before, said that's good enough and still not experience Jesus.
  - j. Or could keep moving until they reach the place God was leading them.
  - k. There is too much "give up" in the church today.
    - i. I'm glad Jesus didn't give up on me; I'm glad he didn't say I done had enough of this; I'm glad Jesus didn't say well I came down here and that's good enough; I'm glad Jesus didn't give up; I'm glad he made it all the way to Calvary for me.
8. Wise folk get happy and rejoice when they get back on track.
- l. Didn't say wise people couldn't get lost, find themselves in the wrong place, or receive bad advice.
  - m. Know how to follow the signs to get back on track.
  - n. They don't trip because they made a mistake, instead they rejoice and get happy when they find themselves headed in the right direction again.
    - i. You need to stop freaking out over your mistakes and celebrate the fact that you found the right path again.
    - ii. Stop beating folk up when they are making progress. They may not be where you want them to be but if they are starting to get with the right people, have a mind and attitude that is moving in the right direction, then you need to celebrate that.
    - iii. Just because you ain't there yet doesn't mean you can't celebrate when you get back on track.
  - o. Notice they didn't have it yet, but still had joy like never before. Didn't have it yet but saw the sign again and got happy.
    - i. You ain't got to have it to have joy, real joy.
    - ii. You got the job, but you still ain't happy.
    - iii. Some people got it and they are still not happy. Got a present for Christmas in your hand and still ain't happy.

**<sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

9. Wise people come prepared to worship.
- p. They worship him because of who he was, not just to get something in return.
  - q. They had something to bring, carried some very precious valuable things with them to worship.
  - r. Problem today is that people will show up to worship but they don't bring anything with them. Always expecting to receive but never bringing anything good to worship.
  - s. You better be prepared for worship before you get here because of who he is, the King of Kings!
  - t. Had joy before they came into the house. They came into the house with joy and celebration.
    - i. I don't need to wait for the praise team; if you don't have joy before you get here, that's a problem.
  - u. When I think of the goodness of Jesus....

**<sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.**

10. Wise people who truly experience God, don't go back the same way they came.
  - v. When you truly experience the King, you will change your mind about some things, you will act different, flow different, not going back to the same old mind set before you experienced Christ.
  - w. They were going to head back to the same place they just left to return to Herod, heading back to the wrong city, wrong folks, wrong church, just wrong. But after they had true worship and experienced the true King....they didn't go back to that place....they went in another direction. That's repentance.
  - x. Problem some of us have is that after church is over, when praise and worship ends, we go back to the same place we just left.
    - i. Go back to the same bad attitude, same worries, same negative talk, same bad habits, same sins, same dirty clothes, same burdens, no change.
    - ii. That's how you really know a Christian is really a Christian; they experience Jesus, they follow the Word and change direction.
    - iii. If you go to Bible study, church, hang around church folk, experience worship and praise and you still don't come out different.....something might be wrong with your worship.
  - y. Distance yourself from poisonous people. I ain't going back to that.

#### Summary and invitation

Let's review the ten wise things that people should do from this story and apply to our lives.

- Look for signs of hope.
- Start looking for Jesus.
- Move...by faith.
- Make sure you are still on the right path.
- Make sure Jesus is there.
- Apply what you know.
- Keep moving until you get there.
- Rejoice when they get back on track.
- Be prepared for worship.
- After you experience Christ, don't go back the same way you came....be changed.

You have a choice to make today, choose wisely.

Perhaps someone in here has seen the signs, heard the story about the good news, but you are still in sin, and have never moved to receive Jesus. This could be your year, this is what Christmas is all about, people making the right move to receive and experience Jesus. This is the time for you to move.

Perhaps you're already saved but you know you are not where you need to be to really experience Jesus. You know the Bible, you go to church, you even may have some church friends but something is still



missing in your life, something missing in your walk. You know stuff, but still not in the presence of peace, no joy, few victories, etc. Today might be the time for you to move.

Maybe you've experienced Jesus but you're still entangled in the same old things. You can't seem to change directions. Today might be the day for you to move.