

Light of the World #4 – Exceeding Great Joy

Matthew 2:1-15

Our Series- Light Of The World

Today we continue- **Light Of The World**

Isaiah 9:2 -

*“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, **upon them hath the light shined.**”*

- God said through Isaiah **it would happen!**
- The Gospels and history – the very existence of CHRISTMAS- **says it did!**
- **Today: It Still Does!**

Today: The story of Jesus and the “wise men” – **Exceeding Great Joy!**

“Wise” usually stands in stark contrast to God.

The wisdom of God is usually viewed as “foolishness” with men.

*“God has chosen **the foolish things of the world** to **confound the wise**; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
And base things of the world, and **things which are despised, hath God chosen...**” 1 Cor. 1:27-28*

Nowhere is that more evident than in the story of Jesus birth!

Conversely- *“professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...”*

Romans 1:22

The norm is that the more wise a person considers himself, the more messed up they become.

The issue is not **what** people know, or think they know, as much as **who** they think they are.

- Our own “god”- smart, educated, powerful, in control, self-driven...
- Or - created; bought; children – who know Who God Is!

Our text:

- The Bible calls them “wise”.
- Their actions display true wisdom.
- Their wisdom actually confronted and clashed with the wisdom of this world!

What do we learn from the wise men? What Light does God blaze into our lives this morning through their story?

Note: Dual truths:

Those who do not know but want to find Jesus!

Those who know Him but may be far off...

I. The Sight – “we have seen his star” vs.2

The journey begins with the light:

The glory of the Lord burst through dark skies as the Creator burst into His creation, a baby boy in a manger!

A. Light:

- The shepherds saw it! ***“the glory of the Lord shown”*** and prompted them to then see Jesus!
- Then hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles away, ***that glory – radiating through a star – Blazed through the darkness of the world and began our story today!***

B. They saw “the star”, “His star”. Light.

They had been taught the prophecy and promise.

They were wise enough to believe it.

They saw something that drew them –

- From wisdom of world- after all they were wise men
- From prominence
- From power and position
- From... lives? Families? Conveniences? Obligations?

II. The Search –

They **responded** to the light! They followed the star.

They could have...

But instead they dropped everything... paid price... ***to not settle! Stay.***

Question for every person: Am I satisfied, content to stay as I am, where I am?

Fact: It will cost you – “you”- to find and follow Jesus.

They began their journey with the light of the star not to find and worship it, but to find the long-awaited answer – The One!

“Where is He?”

III. The Sinister (Sin's Struggle)

A. "Herod the king"

History- Herod the great

Ruthless ruler...

Would do anything to keep his power and continue his rule!

At these rumors- he was *"troubled, and all Jerusalem with him"*

B. The story/events

C. Herod's part of the story is **not just a narrative.**

- It is part of the "light that blazed upon those in the shadow of death"!
- **It reveals the deeper struggle of the sinfulness of every heart!**
 - **"How horrible that he would seek to kill baby Jesus!"**
 - **The problem: It wasn't baby Jesus that bothered him, it was the king He would become!**
 - **God. Jesus, the Messiah. The King - Threatened him. His rule. His control.**

The sinister evil that snaked its way through the encounter represents the underlying problem of all hearts, all men, of all evil in the world:

Sinful pride; self...;

Romans 3 – There is none good... none that seeketh after God on their own.

Religious- Sure: But really?

- **They want the things God gives.** They are not seekers as much as gold diggers.
- **They want "God" as they want Him to be.** Romans 1- they created their own gods!

But to acknowledge A Sovereign. The King of kings. The Lord of lords. And to bow before and submit to Him... another story!

Wise men – did! A foolish evil king, didn't. Which will be true of us?

IV. The Star- again! vs.9-10

They weren't distracted. Intimidated. Deterred. They departed.

God gave them the light they needed to get them from where they were to Jesus!

God loves us as we are and meets us there, but loves us too much to leave us there!

V. The Son.

The Destination:

Not:

Not the light in the heavens... just a means... glory pointing!

Not place – manger/Bethlehem/

Not a cute little baby

But Messiah. Promised One. *"we have seen His star"*

Worth the cost and loss! Cf. Paul - Phil. 3 – What things were gain to me I counted loss...

Worth the struggle

Repentance

Abandonment

Lost

Worthy Of Everything!

- **They worshipped!**
- **They Gave!**
- **They went back home!**

Exceeding great joy is found in Jesus!

- They saw and followed the light...
- They found the light of the world!

