

Searching for a Savior

Christmas Stories: Part 3

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Pastor Brian

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

*⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.' "*

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" ⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. (Matthew 2:1–12, NLT)

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE WISE MEN

1. GOD REWARDS SINCERE SEEKERS.

"...Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

Sincere seekers...

- Read the SIGNS.

"...God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost." (2 Peter 3:9, CEV)

- Ask the right QUESTIONS.

"For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:10, NLT)

- Go wherever THE TRUTH leads them.

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32, NLT)

“Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6, NLT)

2. WHEN WE FIND THE TRUTH WE ARE FACED WITH A CHOICE.

“When they entered the house, they saw the child...they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11, GW)

The birth of Jesus tells me...

- God sees my PROBLEM.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23, NLT)

- God sent a SOLUTION.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

- God sets before me a CHOICE.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” (Romans 10:9–10, NLT)

3. AFTER WE MEET JESUS, OUR LIVES ARE SET ON A NEW COURSE.

...they returned to their own country by another route...

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

“As Christ was brought back from death to life by the glorious power of the Father, so we, too, should live a new kind of life.” (Romans 6:4b, GW)

LAST THOUGHT:

The only dangerous place is when we STOP SEEKING GRACE.