

**Sermon Outline - Sun, Jan 14, 2024 - Vision Month – The Two Kings Go A Different Way
(Matthew 2:1-12; Proverbs 29:18)**

Review – Last week we began the New Year celebrating Epiphany with Christians worldwide. We reflected on the story of the 3 Kings who came from the Far East to worship Jesus. As we begin the New Year, I challenged us all to follow their example to 1. Look for a sign from God; 2. Be Willing to take action and risk discomfort to follow the sign; 3. To place our gifts before God and 4. When God sends you a dream to be willing to go in a different direction.

Exegesis

- It is appropriate that we are having this conversation at a time when there is an open conflict in which folks want to suppress and erase the history of our country.
- As we continue in Vision Month, we always take note of the visionary – Martin Luther King and this year I want to lift up not just Martin but also Coretta Scott King
- Embrace and artist Hank Willis Thomas - led me to learn more about Coretta Scott King
- In many ways, Coretta had more experience with segregation than Martin who grew up in Atlanta which had a larger Black community and was a little more insulated.
- Coretta walked 5 miles to school in Marion, Alabama
- She was valedictorian in high school and won a scholarship to Antioch College in Ohio
- In 1951 she came to Boston to the New England Conservatory
- A friend introduced her to Martin King, and she wasn't impressed so he had to woo her.
- In the end, they married and while she was on a path to become a singer and violinist she moved to Montgomery, Alabama with him.
- Shortly after they got there the Montgomery Bus Boycott started and they were both thrust into a path, neither of them had expected.

The Example of the Kings

1. Vision requires flexibility on your path – you must be willing to be responsive to Spirit.
2. God's vision often unfolds in partnership – It is bigger than you so find an ally with the other folks who support you personally and who are also called to the vision.
3. Timing is key – you may see it before others, but trust God to order your steps and let it unfold. They had big ideas, but they followed where the people were and allowed the vision to unfold over time.

Reflection Questions -

1. As we think about your vision for this year – are there things you feel called to that seem like a detour or departure from your path? How are you embracing or resisting those shifts? What support do you need as you consider a new vision?
2. Who are the folks that are your partners in vision? Are they people who are generally supportive of you or folks who are called to the same vision? How can you build relationships and be more open with those folks?
3. Maybe God has given you a vision that is not yet ready to happen. How are you continuing to hear from God on that? How are you practicing patience? What are you doing now that prepares for the future unfolding of the vision?