



F I N D I N G

*Leaves*



S E R M O N G U I D E

Finding Jesus

Christmas | Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

INTRODUCTION

If we're being honest, many people are drifting further and further away from God every day. Life has caused many to stop praying, to stop reading the Word, and to stop giving. This is a spiritually dark time, therefore we need a light that's going to help us find what God has for us. In the same way, the wise men followed the light of that star until they found Jesus, we too need to find Jesus. Finding Jesus is about strengthening your faith in faithless times. Finding Jesus is about reaching your next level in life. Finding Jesus is about getting back what the enemy has stolen: joy, peace, and love. All of us need to find Jesus during this Christmas season. And for that to happen, we must consider the model the wise men gave us for what it's going to take to reach that place that God has for us. During this Christmas season, there is an opportunity for all of us to find Jesus, to discover the answer we've been seeking, to experience something new in God, and for it to happen, all you have to do is just follow the light.

KEY POINTS

1. You have to be willing to leave where you are. The biblical narrative is not specific about the wise men's place of origin. Tradition says they may have come from Persia, India, or even Africa. All Matthew records is that they came from the East. But regardless of their origin, we can surmise clearly that they came from a great distance, through great difficulty.

It was difficult because the terrain on which they had to travel was not smooth. It was difficult because there were obstacles they had to face along the way. It was difficult because it was far and took a long time. According to some, they could have come from at least 1000 miles away, taking close to two years to get there. And yet they came and pressed their way anyhow.

Their commitment and sacrifice to their new season in life meant going the extra mile. Finding Jesus meant packing their bags and leaving what was familiar in order to experience something new. It was a big leap of faith, but it was a leap worth taking. It meant rising above the comforts and conveniences of the life they knew to allow themselves to see something different and to dream something different.

NOTES

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

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**2. You have to be led to where Jesus is.**

These wise men were well-educated, either in philosophy, theology, science, astrology, or some combination of the four. So in order to find Jesus, they had to be humble enough to recognize what they didn't know in order to submit to something or someone who did. That's what the star symbolizes. Verses 2, 9, and 10 say that the only way they knew where to go was by following the Messiah's star until it settled over the house where Jesus was. While scholars debate what this star may have been, what's important is not so much what star this was in the field of astronomy, but about the God who created and positioned the star to guide the men towards their divine destiny.

For that to happen, they had to be available to God, and for God to show them something supernatural. They say we have seen not just any star. They say, in verse 2, we have seen, "his star." That means that God showed them something, a sign that uniquely applied to them. They saw a sign that was from Him for them. They were willing to be led because God gave them insight into not just any star, but "His star."

**3. You have to love on Him where you find Him.**

When the wise men find Jesus in verse 11, the Bible says they were overjoyed. The Message translation says they "...could hardly contain themselves." Something got a hold of them. They began to worship Him when they saw Him. And they showed love. They gave gifts of praise and thanksgiving.

It was unrehearsed. It was unprompted. There was no cheerleader, no worship leader, no master of ceremonies, and no choir director. But something on the inside caused them to give God praise on the outside. When they found Jesus, they showed love.

In my sanctified imagination, it was verbal, it was visible, and it was volitional. After the distance they had traveled, after all that God had done, after everything they went through when they got to Jesus, they told the Lord and they showed the Lord "thank you."

Why is it that we need so much help and assistance when it comes to loving on God? Loving on God ought to be automatic. When you think about the doors God has opened, and the ways the Lord has made, something on the inside of you ought to prompt you to respond on the outside and tell the Lord, "Thank you."

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# No Limits with Dr. Delman Coates

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Has there ever been a time where, in order to find and follow Jesus, you had to leave your comfort zone? What did you learn from that experience?
2. Do you find it tough to practice humility and trust God to lead you in the right direction? Why or why not?
3. What is something you can thank God for today?

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