

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: “Traveling A Different Road”

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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 “Traveling A Different Road”

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi¹ from the east came to Jerusalem

2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

I. Key Words:

- Advent
- Traveling
- Different
- Warned
- Worshipped
- Treasures
- Epiphany
- Prophecy

II. People, Places, & Time:

- King Herod
- Magi
- Bethlehem
- Mary

III. Background:

Matthew 2:1-12 describes the arrival of wise men (Magi) from the east who followed a star to find the newborn King of the Jews, Jesus. The background includes the political climate under King Herod, the Magi's role as astrologers and scholars who studied prophecies, and the contrast between their respectful worship and Herod's hostile reaction. This passage, which is celebrated as the Feast of Epiphany, presents Jesus as a king who is revealed to both Gentiles and Jews and whose birth fulfills prophecy

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis #1: Recognizing and Responding Positively to the Living Christ.

- The wise men were not the only ones who traveled a different road after meeting Jesus Christ.
- To meet him, to believe in him, and to respond to him positively produced a revolutionary transforming effect in the lives of people during Jesus' life and ministry.

- A.** Matthew the publican traveled by a different road after he responded positively to the invitation of Jesus Christ to become one of his followers (Matt. 9:9).
- B.** The woman at the well, traveled a different road after meeting Jesus (John 4:39–42).
- C.** The man possessed by demons and who lived in the tombs traveled a different road after he met and was delivered by Jesus Christ (Mark 5:19–20).
- D.** Zacchaeus, the Jewish tax collector for the Roman occupational authorities, walked a different road after Jesus came into his home for dinner and remained in his heart as Lord (Luke 19:8).
- E.** The man born blind traveled a different road after Jesus came by (cf. John 1:9 with 9:25).
- F.** Saul, the proud, legalistic, religious Pharisee who persecuted the early Christians, traveled a different road after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–22).

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Results of A Devine Encounter with Christ.

- The wise men traveled by a different road as they left Bethlehem because of a divine communication that came to them.
- Wise persons who come to Jesus Christ today travel a different road thereafter because of the divine gift of a new nature and because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, which is the gift of God to those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Gal. 4:6–7).
- The different road that the disciples are to follow as a result of letting Jesus Christ become Lord is demonstrated and clarified in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

The apostle Paul details at least four different ways in which we are to walk.

- A.** We are to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Eph. 4:1).
- B.** We are to "walk in love" (Eph. 5:2).
- C.** We are to "walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). Verse 9 explains what this means: "(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteous-ness and truth)" (NIV).

1. To walk in the light is to walk conscious of the fact that we are always in God's presence.
2. It means to walk in complete transparency.
3. It means to walk differently from the ungodly world.

D. We are to walk in wisdom rather than in foolishness (v. 15).

- Followers of Christ are to watch their step and not follow the ways of foolishness and stupidity that lead to self- destruction and to harmfulness to others.
- To accomplish this we must continually seek to know the mind of God.
- We can do this best by listening to the words of Jesus Christ and not only hear him, but heed him (Matt. 7:24-27).

V. Make It Happen

- What Devine communication have you personally encountered with the Savior?
- What does it mean to walk a different road in life?
- What are some ways we are to walk after our encounter with the Christ?
- How did the Magi respond when they came to the house where the child was?
- What steps must we take for continued growth and maturation as we travel our new road?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?
