

# STARS & STABLES

Pastor Jordan Moore | July 24, 2022

## I. EXPECTATION VS. REALITY

**Matthew 2:1-2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.”

**Matthew 2:3-6** <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “ ‘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.

**A. *The wise men set out after a star but ultimately were led to a stable...***

**B. *Sometimes in life we can have experiences like the Magi.***

## II. A SEASON OF DISAPPOINTMENT

**A. *What do you do in life when you are searching for a star, and you find a stable?***

**Matthew 2:9-10** <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

### **1.) We combat disappointment with rejoicing**

- We are not always in control of our circumstances, but we can control how we respond.

**Matthew 2:11a** <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

## 2.) We combat disappointment with worship

- For some of you, the disappointments you have faced has kept you from God.
- One of the most significant ways we can connect to God is through worship.

**Matthew 2:11b** Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## 3.) We combat disappointment by giving

- We might just need to keep giving God our time. Our love, our trust – even when we can't see where He is leading.
- We might just have to keep sacrificially giving to those who disappointed us to allow God to make his way.

**John 3:16-18** <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son

## ***B. Understand that what you might interpret to be a disappointment might just be a divine appointment!***

### 1.) Sight vs. Vision

### 2.) You can have sight with no vision

### 3.) Vision is fixed on things above; ability to see beyond "the stable"

## III. Conclusion

*God, help us to look beyond the stables we might find before us and give us the vision to see what you can do despite the disappointments we face in life. Help us to rejoice. Help us to worship. Help us to give.*