

Advance to the Manger — Day 3

Follow the Sign

Matthew 2:1-2 TPT

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem near Jerusalem during the reign of King Herod. After Jesus’ birth a group of spiritual priests from the East came to Jerusalem and inquired of the people, “Where is the child who is born king of the Jewish people? We observed his star rising in the sky and we’ve come to bow before him in worship.””

Introduction:

Journeying to the Manger: Follow the Sign

- Contemplate the symbolism of the Wise Men following the star in faith.
- Read Matthew 2:1-2 and explore how God provides guidance on our journey.
- Prayer: Ask for God's light to illuminate your path and lead you closer to the manger.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we find the account of the wise men who followed a star to find the newborn King, Jesus. This story teaches us valuable lessons about seeking God's presence and guidance in our own lives. As we reflect on Matthew 2:1-2, let's explore the significance of following the star to advance the manger.

Heart Reflection

1. Recognizing the guiding light:

The wise men saw a star in the East, a supernatural sign that directed them towards the birthplace of Jesus. Just as they recognized this special phenomenon, we too must be aware of the signs and promptings that God places in our lives. He is doing a new thing will you be aware of it? (Isaiah 43:19) God often uses various means to guide us, whether it be through His Word, prayer, the counsel of others, dreams, or even unexpected circumstances. Let us open our hearts and minds to recognize the guiding light that leads us closer to the presence of Jesus.

2. Stepping out in faith:

The wise men not only recognized the star, but they took action and embarked on a journey to find the newborn King. They left behind their familiar surroundings, facing uncertainty and challenges along the way. Similarly, following God's guidance often requires us to step out in faith, leaving our comfort zones and trusting in His provision. It may not always be an easy path, but as we trust and obey, God will lead us towards the manger, where we can encounter His Son, Jesus.

3. Worshiping the King:

The wise men's ultimate purpose in following the star was to worship Jesus. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, symbolizing their recognition of Jesus' kingship, deity, and sacrificial mission. When we follow the star that leads us to the manger, our hearts should be filled with a desire to worship and honor Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Let us approach His presence with reverence, gratitude, and adoration, offering our lives as living sacrifices in service to Him.

Call To Action

- **Be Aware**
 - Take time to look around at what is going on.
 - Study to know how God works.
 - Keep your heart open to His guidance.

- **Take Action**
 - It is not enough to simply recognize the sign.
 - Step out and follow the sign.
 - Activate your faith by Action.

- **Take Aim**
 - Know your purpose in following the sign. (Find the King)
 - Prepare the resource for the journey. (Bring Gifts)
 - Keep Christ in your Sights. (It's all About the Baby)

Take A Way

The story of the wise men reminds us that following the star is not merely a physical journey, but a spiritual one. As we seek God's guidance and follow the leading of His Holy Spirit, He will illuminate our path and bring us closer to the manger, where we can encounter the presence and glory of Jesus. May we be attentive, step out in faith, and worship the King as we journey towards the manger this Christmas season.

Prayer:

Oh Lord, thank you for guiding us through the light of Your Word and Your Holy Spirit. Help us to recognize the signs and promptings You place in our lives and give us the courage to step out in faith, following Your leading. May our hearts be filled with worship and adoration as we advance to the manger and encounter the presence of Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus name. Amen.