



## ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM-PT 2 STARSTRUCK

This Christmas, we find ourselves engaged in a “fight for focus.” In a world of endless distracting and competing events, how do we cancel the clutter of culture and remain laser light focused on the Star of Bethlehem. God was desperate to have a relationship with us and so He created a star to guide us to Himself. Christmas is our opportunity to be become **STARSTRUCK!**

### STARS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FOLLOW:

- The Illusion of Success!
- The Deception of the World!

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (I JOHN 2:15-17, NKJV).

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity (I JOHN 2:15-17, THE MESSAGE).



### **TEXT:**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” (**MATTHEW 2:1-2, NLT**).

- **MAKE WORSHIP YOUR PRIORITY!**

<sup>3</sup>King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’ <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back, and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” <sup>9</sup>After this interview the wise men went their way . . . (**MATTHEW 2:3-9, NLT**).

- **REMEMBER WHY YOU STARTED!**

And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup>They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (**MATTHEW 2:9-11, NLT**).

- **BRING YOUR BEST TO HIM!**



<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod" (MATTHEW 2:12, NLT).

You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart Jerimiah (JEREMIAH 29:13, NIV).