

## December 24

**Matthew 2:9-11 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When Wayne and I hiked the Rocky Mountains for the first time, we went in June because we were told there was little snow left. Well, their definition of little snow and ours differed greatly. When we reached a certain elevation, we encountered snow that was still 10-15 feet deep. It was quite an experience hiking that far above the marked trail. As we began that trek, we wondered how we were to keep on the trail since we could no longer see it. It was not long after that that we noticed red markers attached to the trees some 20 feet off the ground. Those red markers marked the trail for us. Even though we could not see the trail, we were guided to our destination without a problem.

I could not guess how many times I have read the Christmas story. I had pictured three wise men (from the song not the Bible), a far-off star guiding them, and a quick journey. However, not long ago, the Holy Spirit brought an interesting fact to my attention. The star the magi were following “stood over where the young Child was.” The star truly did lead them. It moved ahead of them, stopped over Christ’s house, and lit it up! Those men could not have missed Jesus. The LORD moved the heavens to lead them to Christ. The Christmas story is more than a story. It is the truth that still guides us today. What the Father did for those wise men, He does for each one of us. He will put people in our lives who will direct us to Jesus. He will place obstacles in our path to show us we need to change directions. He will bless us, encourage us, and amaze us to lead us to the Messiah. On this Christmas Eve, let us think back at how our loving Father guided us to the place where we met the living Christ. Then, let us realize that He is now using us to lead others to Jesus.