

The Journey and the Destination – Matthew 2:1-12

“We Three Kings” – It’s a song filled with wonder and legend. **It’s based upon a Biblical story, but one that has been incredibly romanticized!**

For instance, “We Three Kings...”

- There is no evidence that there were three!
- **There is no evidence that they were kings!**
- Though we see them in most nativity scenes, they weren’t there!
- Even the star is steeped in speculation & legend!

Doubts, embellishment, & mistruths about one aspect of the story of the birth of Jesus can lead a person **to question the whole thing!**

Jesus said in John 8:31-32 – **“If you abide in my Word, you are my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

Combating the Scrooge in all of us starts with the quest for truth! **Matt. 2:1-12**

What do we know for sure & how do these truths set us free to live in response

- 1) **Wise men from a far away country came seeking a new king!** We don’t know from how far, which country, how long it took, when they arrived, etc. But we do know they came, & why they came - to worship this king

Significance – **Jesus was born “King of the Jews” but His kingship extends beyond Israel** – He is a King for all & over all! Wise men from a distant land discovered this truth and responded to it! Have we?

- 2) The truth about Jesus was initiated by God with the appearance of a star, as well as giving the knowledge that revealed it’s significance.

Significance – **God initiates the process of revealing the truth about Jesus to us today as well.** He gives us a source of light that draws us to Him. Do we see the light, recognize it, and are we drawn to it?

Ps. 119:105 – “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

- 3) **The wise men still did not have all the answers!** They arrived in Jerusalem inquiring about where this King could be found! Their inquiry led them to King Herod, & then to the chief priests & scribes who revealed the location of Bethlehem based upon Biblical prophecy!

Significance – No matter how smart we may be, we don’t have all the answers either. Do we seek out others who can help us find the answers?

This is why it’s so important that we do not forsake the assembly! Heb. 10:25

- 4) By the time the wise men actually arrived in Bethlehem & worshipped Jesus, a substantial period of time had passed since His birth.

Vs. 11 says that when they arrived, **they went into a house, not a stable.**

In Vs. 7 Herod asks the wise men when the star first appeared. The answer is not recorded for us, but in vs. 16 Herod orders all the male children in Bethlehem 2 years old and under to be killed!

From these verses we can see that the wise men must have arrived months, even years later. Their journey to Jesus was a long one!

Significance – **Everyone’s journey to Jesus is unique!** Some paths take longer than others, just compare the shepherds to the wise men. Don’t get discouraged if you still haven’t arrived, keep going! *“Pilgrim’s Progress”*

- 5) The journey for the wise men was not only long, it was also hard! **“Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.”** **But even the star wasn’t always easy to find.**

Vs. 9-10 reveals that after the encounter with Herod, the star rose again & the wise men **“rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”** It must have been hidden for a time, or only visible at certain times of the day/night!

Significance – Our journey to Jesus can also be hard. Sometimes the path that leads us to Him is filled with hills, valleys, conflicts, recalculations, etc.! And remember that it’s often darkest just before the dawn of new light!

The wise men help us see that the journey to Jesus is just as important as reaching the destination! They may not have been at the manger, but they certainly found what their hearts were seeking – Jesus, the King!

Our story may not be the romanticized type, the one legends are made of, but if there is something we can all learn from the true story of the wise men, it is that we all can encounter Jesus for ourselves!

What makes the wise men truly wise, is their pursuit of the Savior!

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