

“God Still Guides the Wise”
“Because of Bethlehem” — Part 3
Matthew 2

1. To the humble God gives the greatest gifts!

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
Psalm 25:9

..."God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
1 Peter 5:5

A Contrast in Characters:

***The Magi and Herod share the same chapter
but their hearts are polar opposites.***

2. The humility of the Magi brings them to Jesus.

• **God uses a star to guide the Magi to Jesus.**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2:1-2

• **God uses His Word to guide the Magi to Jesus.**

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: '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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"
Matthew 2:4-6

• **The humility of the Magi bring them face to face with God in the flesh.**

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:9-11

***Humility brought the Magi face to face with
the King of kings and Lord of lords.***

- **God uses a dream to help the Magi protect Jesus.**

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:12

“The Wise Men protected Jesus by not disclosing His location. We protect Jesus by doing exactly the opposite—disclosing His location to others.”

Patrick Morley—Man in the Mirror Ministry

For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. Psalm 149:4

“For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:40

Application: The Magi are the heroes of Matthew's account of the Christmas story. They were seeking to worship the new born King and in the process they were guided by God and able to meet face to face with God in the flesh.

3. The pride of Herod sets him against Jesus.

- **Herod's ego was threatened.**

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:3

- **Herod's pride prompts him to lie.**

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." Matthew 2:7-8

- **Herod's pride prompts him to carry out murder.**

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route... When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 2:12 and 16

“It is better to be Herod's hog than his son.”

Caesar Augustus

***“Herod's obituary will forever contain the sad designation:
The first person to reject Christ.”***

Max Lucado

Application: The same message that inspired worship in the Magi, inspired hatred and murder in Herod. How are you responding to God's message? Will you respond to Him with humility or pride?

"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:40

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

God will always give us a star to find Him!

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Who or what was the star that guided you to Christ?