

3 Heart-Stirring Truths the Wise Men Can Teach Us

Have you ever seen a satellite in space? Most likely, you have and didn't realize it. I recently read that 27 satellites on six different orbital planes at an altitude of 12,400 miles circle the earth at 8,640 miles per hour. They each circle twice a day, with four of them visible at all times everywhere on the earth, sending signals to radar stations around the world. These amazing machines form the Global Positioning Satellite system which is amazingly accurate and help make this the most mobile generation in history.

Many people travel more than 30 miles each day, but in the time of the birth of Christ, the average person never traveled beyond a 30-mile radius of their birthplace; this makes the story recorded in Matthew 2 all the more amazing:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who was born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where Christ should be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are no longer least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come a Governor, who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, carefully inquired of them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring me

word again, so that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed. And the star which they saw in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great excitement. And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt. 2:1-11).

While most believe this happened as part of the Christmas season, in reality, these wise men didn't show up at the birth of Jesus but later. I'm sorry, but they were not gathered with the shepherds around the manger while the cattle were lowing. I take the time to point this out because the lessons I want to share from the wise men are much more than nice little Christmas devotionals for the month of December.

The Wise Seek Him

The first lesson seems quite obvious and has become a cliché: "Wise men seek Him." Or another way to phrase it is: Wise men and women go out of their way to encounter God. The religious scholars lived just five miles away from where Jesus was born, but not one of them traveled that short distance to see Him. Meanwhile, these Magi traveled at least 900 miles, not in a nice comfortable Cadillac but on a camel's back. It had to be uncomfortable, but they determined it was well worth it.

How about you? Are you ready to allow some discomfort in your life in this next season? Why ask this? Because, the last time you were uncomfortable was the last time you grew! To get in better shape physically requires a measure of discomfort. The same is true emotionally, mentally and spiritually. As we enjoy this season and look to enter a new year, we need to make a quality decision that being in His presence is worth every mile, every dime, every discomfort. We will spend

ourselves to encounter Jesus as never before!

The Wise Live by Faith

The second lesson is also a very familiar one: Wise men and women travel this journey with faith. There is no way these men would risk their reputations, their lives and their fortune if they did not believe prophecies concerning the star and the King it represented. Faith is crucial in the lives of the wise. Hebrews 11:6a teaches that "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." isn't just difficult, it is impossible, to live a life that pleases God outside of the faith-place. More than once, the Bible instructs that the righteous "shall live by faith." (See Rom. 1:17, Hab. 2:4) Corrie ten Boom described the power of faith this way, "Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible." Faith honors God, and God honors faith. Therefore, let's make a quality decision that we will live like our God is bigger than our enemies and any circumstances we face. We will live like He is faithful to fulfill every promise He makes. We will live like there is nothing impossible for Him. Let this next season be the season of the big ask! Ask big, believe big and receive big for His glory!

The Wise Are Worshipers

The third lesson we learn from the wise men is regarding worship. The wise men were bold in proclaiming that their purpose for making the journey was simply to worship. Wise men and women understand the true essence of worship! For many today, worship is about what God does for us and what we get out of it. But the wise men understood two essentials of true worship: First, true worship is not about being served but about serving. Second, true worship is not about receiving but about giving. They traveled 900 arduous miles to simply see the baby and give Him gifts valuing hundreds of thousands in our common currencies. What did they hope to receive from their worship of Jesus? Only the honor and joy of serving and

giving to Him. They considered it the highlight of their life and worth all it cost them to be part of God's plan. They counted it an honor to use their resources for His glory. This is worship! I pray that you and I will make a fresh and quality decision to live the lives of true worshippers.

My prayer for you is that in this season and the upcoming year, you will walk in a new and ever-increasing level of wisdom. As you put these three keys to work in your life, you will become known in heaven and the earth as someone who is counted among the wise. {eoa}

Keith Nix is the founding lead pastor of a thriving congregation, The Lift Church in Sevierville, Tennessee. He has traveled as an international evangelist since 1993, carrying a unique prophetic message of awakening to this generation. He and his wife, Margie, have one daughter, Isabella. To learn more and get a free audio download you can visit: