

The Parish of Wellow

Searching Issues

Did God really guide the wise men and does he guide us today?

Passage, Sermon Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these sermon notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during next week to consider the questions below.

1. Sermon Passage

Matthew 2:1-12, 16

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

2 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."

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

4 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.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "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."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 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."

9 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.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 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.

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

16 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.

2. Sermon Notes

2.1 What were these wise men watching and studying to cause them to leave their land and travel to the four distinct geographical parts of this story?

2.2 What was their response when they met Jesus?

2.3 What were Herod's two reactions/

2.4 Which showed his genuine 'heart'?

2.5 How many kings are there in this story?

2.6 With which king do you align?

3. Questions to consider back at home

- 3.1 Was this story just a fable?
- 3.2 How might that star have led them?
- 3.3 How else were the wise men directed by God?
- 3.4 What ways does God use to direct our paths?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

- 3.5 How might we respond?
- 3.6 What is God saying to us through this story and sermon this week?
- 3.7 How do we, or should we respond to Jesus, whether baby or King?

If you would like to discuss these questions further please feel free to call me on 01225 833748

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