

FINDING JESUS THROUGH SEEKING

Today I want to talk to you about finding Jesus: When it come to the scriptures we see people encountering the Lord in many different ways

- **Moses:** burning bush... that set Him on course for the rest of His life.
- **Paul:** was blinded by a bright light... literally knocked off his horse on his way to imprison and Kill Christians.
- **Nicodemus** a religious leader came to Jesus in secret.
- The unnamed **woman at the well**... was just doing the normal chores that started her day.

For the wise men they followed a Star...

Matthew 2:1-12 – 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." 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... 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. (NIV)

Finding Jesus: **He finds you**

When God sent His son Jesus into the world... **He found (humanity) us** He came into our world and saved our day

- When He chose **Mary** to carry His Son... He saved her
- When **Joseph** was chosen to raise this boy into a man... **God saved Joseph in the process**

When the Star appeared to the Wise men....God saved them... and they didn't even know it was happening... God is specific to their need... He set them on a course that would change them forever

TCC- so it is with you and I... at some point our lives intersected with God and His purposes... each encounter individually planed by God

- Ask yourself this ... Why am I really here today?

The Wise men were not Jewish. They were pagans, from a pagan culture. They were idol worshipers, sophisticated, educated, sought after... kings. They were also astronomers. So the Lord preached the gospel in the stars to them

The star appeared...New and different... plain to see (for them)... out of the billions of stars that they encountered in their studies... this one was new.

- Somehow...from all their previous study and research... it was a king's star... the King of kings star... a king to be worshipped... the Son of God

There is no record of anyone else following that star... of all the people on the earth... perhaps only the wise men could see it

- The wise men obviously felt others would be stirred up about this event, but they were the only ones looking for this king.
- I think God ordained that star just for them

TCC – God will come to you and expose His deity personally, in a way that will make you say...ahhhhhh THAT'S GOD!

They were absolutely convinced this was the star of the new born King the promised son of God

Angels appeared to the shepherds ... said let us go and see

Mary and Joseph travelled over 100 miles to register for taxation purposes... to be recorded in the census

Anna and Simeon... were waiting...looking literally living in the church (Temple)

Something supernatural led them... and they followed ... But He found them first

- Prepared their caravans and set out following what they had been given...Up to a **two year quest**...day after day... God knows how to get our attention... **He wet their whistle**... couldn't resist!!

Q. How did you get here... what path are you on... what has happened in your life that has led you here today?

Finding Jesus: **They were seekers...**

Once they came to an impasse... the star led them to Jerusalem not to Bethlehem

Q. What happens when the star stops? Inquire for themselves

2 Chronicles 16:9... "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His... (NASB)

John 4:23 – Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, **for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.** (NIV)

- He's looking for you

TCC – When your star stops, it's time to seek. Find your answer in the Word.

Matthew 2:2 - 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." (NIV)

- Not only did they follow... they began to seek for themselves

TCC- we are here to worship... to bow our hearts and say... You alone are God... You're the one my heart is searching for

God wants to be wanted By us...God wants you and I to seek Him

Jeremiah 29.13 – When you seek Me with your whole heart you will find Me...

Finding Jesus: **He wants to be found**

Bethlehem... not a real place of influence. It was obscure, off the beaten path. It wasn't even a center of commerce. And to find a baby, even more bizarre, born in the barn... really weird for a king... **THE KING**... one to be worshipped

TCC- ... He said seek and you will find Me ...knock and the door will be opened

(After Seeking) ... **the star began to move... again**- they are really serious about this

Then we read **of the star coming right over the place where the Lord was. ...The wise men rejoiced when they saw the young child with Mary — and they worshipped Him.**

Finding Jesus: **We worship**

When we find Him... we worship

- **Worship is not about us.** Our needs... what we get out of the deal
- Worship is about who HE IS... this was more than a young child in the minds of these kings
- These kings of renowned... these sought after educated men who influenced many... Humble themselves
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Matthew 2:11 – 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. (NIV)

In this moment they were worshippers... bowing down ... before the king of the universe

- Something in that star that appeared said to them this is the Son of God

TCC- this is what Christmas is about today... that we would follow... that we would seek and that when we find Him We worship... no questions asked... we know ... He truly is almighty God ... the one who sacrificed His life for us