

The Magi

“Advent - Monologues”



“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, ‘Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.’”

Matthew 2:1-2 KJV

“We had been on many excursions before, but none that seemed as futile as this one at the beginning. We were following a star with little knowledge of exactly where we were going, why we were going or what we were expecting to find. We only knew we were going to see a King.

“We traveled with a caravan for weeks and traveled at night because we were being guided by a star. It was a very exciting trip, and at the same time we were somewhat apprehensive because there were so many unknowns to us.

“As we were traveling we thought we

should maybe check with someone so we went to see King Herod and hoped that he would have some answers. He could only speculate that there were some imposters out there trying to take his throne away. At the time he seemed upset, and wondered who this person was that maybe was going to take his job. He seemed very jealous and insecure. We continued on our journey on pure faith that we were following the star as we had been told.

“The star guided us to the little town of Bethlehem in Judah. We found that there had been a new baby born to a couple that had traveled there from Nazareth for the census that had been required by Caesar. There was some talk among the townsfolk about this birth.

“When we presented ourselves and our gifts to them and told them why we were there, the parents seemed very sincere and somewhat perplexed by all the notice they were receiving. The child seemed quite normal, but was He?

“The whole trip had to be planned by someone other than us. We were not accepted as a Jew. We were outsiders, foreigners, who were going to worship “the King of the Jews” as we had been told. And we had been told to ignore the wishes of Herod that we go back and tell him about our experience.

“We took gifts and we worshipped this new king that we had been led to by a star. We were strangers in a strange land but we were accepted.

“We had been told about the shepherds, the angels, the animals, but we did not arrive for the birth. As we think back, we think it was our privilege to help protect this King from the men on earth who did not understand that this was no earthly king, but the Son of God.

“The child was special. God appeared to us in a dream and told us that we should not return to Herod, so we went a different way to our own country. We didn’t know much about Herod because we were from another land, but we learned that he was envious of everyone and had no respect for any one even new born children.

“King Herod was so upset and jealous, that he set out to kill every male under the age of two years thinking he would get rid of this new King.

“We were also told that Joseph was warned to take the young King and journey to Egypt until Herod had died. But, we had completed our mission and followed the star that took us to the Heavenly King.”

“Many never knew of our journey, or cared. Some who did know about it thought we were just some fools that followed a star and thought they had seen a King.

“We were being tested to accept on faith. I remember Christ telling the people that now they see through a mirror dimly, but then they shall see face to face. We had the wonderful opportunity to see Christ on earth face to face.

“Sometimes we just don’t see why things are happening and we seem to be drawn in a different direction than we think we

should be going. It is like we are traveling in fog. We were following a sign for God, and we had to have faith that the sign was right. Then eventually we see the sun begin to peak through and we can see clearly and follow the guidance we are given.

“We now know that God was directing us. He was the star. He had set us out on a journey of faith. And there are still people like King Herod out there who are jealous and want to keep us from doing what is right. You can say it is the devil or what ever power you want to call it, but we all question sometimes, and that is normal.

“We have free will to follow the star or go our own separate way. Sometimes we have to step out in faith not knowing where we are going to end up. We followed the star as we were directed. We dared to step out. We were blessed.

“We were told we were going to see the King of the Jews. Long before the Jews and the Gentiles were involved in just who this king had come to save we



were given the privilege of being led to him and to worship him. He is our king and we are part of the wonderful world that he came to save.”



Gold Frankincense Myrrh

Note: Over the years, much has been written about the Magi. Some say they were three kings, some say astrologers. All seem to agree they were following a star but don't agree on how that star got in the sky or if anyone else could see it. They have been given names by some writers—Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar although there is not proof there were three. The pronoun is plural, that is all we know for sure. Their gifts were Gold, a precious metal, Frankincense, a perfume or incense, and Myrrh an anointing oil.

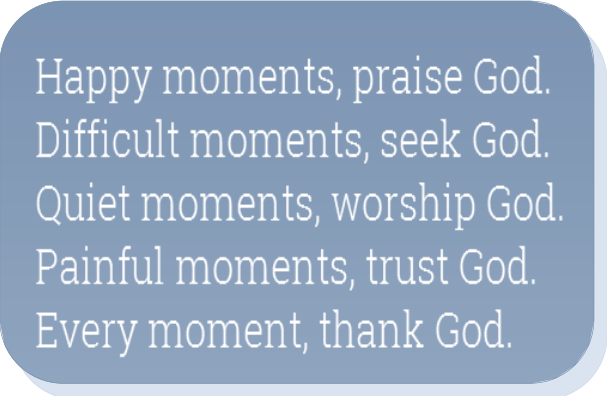


Note: Main references to the Magi are found in Matthew 2: and Isaiah 60. Some say they were wise men, some say kings and some say astrologers. The number is not given anywhere. You can use any number of people to read the various parts. Tradition tells us there were three but that is not written anywhere. It seems to be totally based on the fact that there were three gifts.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You have given us many signs to learn of Your greatness, and still we want more. Help us to see those signs, even though they may not be as dramatic as those given to the Magi and others and help us to also have the faith of a child and follow You. Amen

1. Were the Magi the first foreign missionaries?
2. Were these Wise Men or fools?
3. Do we have the same fear as Herod?
4. Would you follow a star today if you truly felt you were given a message to do so?
5. Would you seek a second opinion? From Whom?
6. Aren't those sort of strange gifts to give to a baby?
7. What do you think their real purpose in going to Bethlehem was?

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As I thought of the Magi, this verse made much more sense to me because we seldom hear of them, but we know of their work. *“The quiet words of the wise are more effective than the ranting of a king of fools.”* Ecclesiastes 9:17
THE MESSAGE