

Classic Christmas

Week #5 - Follow the Star: Our culture emphasizes a focus on the present. "It's the journey, not the destination". It's not where you've been or where you're going. What is important is where you are now. But what if the destination is better than the journey? We find the answer to that question in the Wisemen who visited Jesus in Bethlehem and for many are another part of what makes for a Classic Christmas.

- *Matthew 2:1-2 - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."*

Classic question #1 - Is it about the journey or the destination?

- *Matthew 2:3-8 - ... 3 When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born. 5 "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet: 6 And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah: because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel." 7 Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him."*

Classic question #2 - Is the journey worth it?

- *Matthew 2:9-11 - 9 After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure. 11 Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Christmas is classic because it is a destination story!

- *Philippians 3:20,21 - But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Getting to see Jesus (the destination) is worth the journey!

Points To Ponder

1. What things have you noticed getting in your way of truly worshipping Jesus this Christmas season? Why is that? What truth will you commit to memory this week to help you when those obstacles become real?
2. For the Christian, explain in what way it is about both the destination and the journey?
3. What do we see in the wisemen's reaction that tells us getting to the destination (aka - seeing Jesus) is so worth it? In what places and ways can we experience that here on earth?

Homework: Genesis 1 & Psalm 139