

SERMON: ANOTHER WAY HOME

Matthew 2:12

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Introduction

The wise men are some of the many characters in the Christmas story. They traveled approximately five hundred miles after correctly interpreting the significance of the appearance of a new star. After they had visited the Christ child, they were warned in a dream that they were to return home by another route. King Herod wanted them to come back through Jerusalem and reveal to him where the Christ child had been born. It was his evil desire to kill the baby Jesus, removing Him as a threat to his throne. The wise men went home a different way geographically; they also went home a different way spiritually. This change in the spiritual direction of their lives has several relevant lessons for us. Let's look at the attributes of these men and gain some great spiritual truths.

Exposition

1. They Were Looking Up

(Positive – Not Negative)

2. They Came From Afar

(Distance Did Not Stop Them)

(They Overcame Impediments)

(In A Spiritual Way, We All Were Far From God At One Time)

3. They Correctly Interpreted the Facts

(Wisdom Is the Proper Interpretation of Facts and Acting Appropriately)

4. They Found the Christ Child and Worshipped Him

(They Sought the Right Person for the Right Reason)

(They Brought Gifts-Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh)

(Worship Is Not Complete Until You Bring Something to God)

5. They Returned Home Another Way

(They Could Not Genuinely Worship and Leave the Same Way They Came)

(They Listened To God and Pursued A Different Route)

(God Spoke to Them As A Star and In A Dream)

(We Go Forth and We Return)

(They Returned With Good News-Just Like the Shepherds)

Closing Thoughts

Like the lowly shepherds, after worshipping the Savior, the wise men had to return to their homes and their daily duties. The conditions did not change but their lives changed. Many times God does not change things; He changes us. Then we are better equipped to deal with the demands and challenges of life. No matter how great the worship service, we always have to return to familiar places and familiar faces. After the holiday season many of us will have to go back to our “pandemic adapted” routines. Caregivers will have to continue their most important roles. Essential workers will have to continue their vital services. I am praying that we will return to our routines by an elevated spiritual route and the joy of Christmas will continue throughout the New Year. We can “rev up” our routines and live more abundantly. What was drudgery can now become a delight. What was boring can become exciting again. Remember, with God nothing is impossible! Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Linguistic/Theological Note

During the time of the translating of the King James Version there were many great debates as to how to translate into English the Greek word, *magoi*, which referred to these Persian travelers. They could have been called kings, priests, statesmen, scholars, astronomers, potentates, philosophers, intellectuals, aristocrats, or dignitaries. These men were the “movers and shakers” of their society. They were educated in all aspects of Persian culture. A literal translation of *magoi* would be “powerful ones.” The translators settled on the term “wise men” because they were wise enough to see through Herod’s deception and neutralized his plot to kill baby Jesus. They literally “out smarted” the devil.

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