

Lessons from the Wise Men

God makes every effort to reach every person who is far away from Him. – God used the star to reach pagan Gentile magician/astrologers in order to bring them to Christ. The first we read of these wise men is when they arrive in Jerusalem, the Jewish capital. It says, "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."

The wise men were on a mission, to find the newborn king of the Jews and worship him. What is fascinating about these men is what they have to teach us about God, that God makes every effort to reach every person no matter how far away they are from him. First, we have to remember these wise men were likely Gentiles, and not Jews who had come seeking the king of the Jews. The Jews thought the promised Messiah was for the Jews, not the Gentiles. In fact, all the first followers of Christ were almost exclusively Jewish. The Christ was supposed to deliver them from their sins. He was supposed to deliver them from their oppressors, and yet the signal to the wise men was that God was calling them as Gentiles to the Christ. Second, they didn't even share the religion of the Jews; they were Magi, which was a combination of a learned scientist with cultic astrologer. They knew science as well as magic. They were the academicians of their time, but they were still magician/astrologers, which were practices God specifically forbid for his people. What this tells us is that God never abandons anyone. There is never anyone too far gone.

If God can reach pagan Gentile astrologers, he is still working on people who we may think are too far gone. God never gives up on anyone and he uses whatever means he can to help lead them to Christ. In this case God sent them a message using an astronomical event, a star, to signal to them that they needed to search for the child born as king of the Jews. Even though God said astrology is wrong, he still used the star to bring the wise men to Christ. God used a language they understood. Perhaps if an angel had appeared to them like the shepherds, it would have been misinterpreted, but God knew the best way to reach astrologers was through a star. God used the star as a way to bring the Magi to Christ.

Matthew Stoll (Adapted)