



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him*

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They Opened Their Treasures

Come, let us walk with the Wisemen as they first see the Christ child, where He lives, and the lacking in his life, his surroundings that, no doubt, would have caused most to leave in grave disappointment. It was obvious there was no royalty around Him. He was despised though only a very young child, a toddler.

The Wisemen, some believe, were kings. People of less *means* would, no doubt, have turned away in disgust, making a two year journey to see the King of kings.

Finding the young child in what most would consider a despised condition such as a peasant child, they were, in spite of this, convinced that He was/is the King of kings. Knowing this, there is, I believe, great reverence knowing He is the King of kings – though others cannot see what they see; others cannot and do not experience His glory, His majesty, the grandeur of His presence. Oh, can you imagine what it would be like if others were looking on, watching as you bow before the King of kings – who does not present as being a king? And, yet, the Wisemen are not ashamed to render to him all honors due royalty.

I wonder what will we say when the time comes in the presence of those who hate the Lord Jesus Christ. Will we deny the Lord as did Peter? Or will we stand firm knowing that we are in the presence of the King of king, Lord of lords, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – of Israel? Will we be ashamed to stand with the One Who was treated as a criminal, and, who, to this day is rejected – when the time comes, and we are called to decide as the children of Israel were called to do when Joshua said,

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Jos 24.15).

The Wisemen were indeed wise as they heard the calling to go to Bethlehem and see this new born King. They saw with their hearts, and they trusted what they knew to be true, having followed the star in the East. And, when they arrived in the presence of the new born King, they bowed down before Him, worshipped Him, and laid their lives before Him. I believe that the Wisemen knew He was a divinely appointed King. They considered the purpose of God though concealed outwardly.

Where are you and I in the process of opening our treasures, opening our life to the King of kings? He knows who we are not and He knows our sinfulness. Opening our life to Him allows Him to reveal to us who we are not. It is a gift to us to come to know that we stand in need of a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ Who died on the Cross of Calvary for our sins.

Opening our treasures, taking off the façade, the wrapping paper to expose ourselves, our sinfulness allows us to receive the greatest of all gifts, Jesus Christ, who will forgive us our sins when we repent. When we lay ourselves before Him, He comes to cleanse us and make us whole in Him, and calls us to take up our cross, and follow Him all the way every day.

Are you ready to make that decision now – to offer yourself, to lay yourself before Him, reveal who you are not – but who He is, to give yourself to the King of kings now – and forevermore?

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

All through the Bible, there were those who saw what others could not see, nor did they want to see. There were those who hearts yearned to see Jesus, while others thrived on discord and hate.

I wonder if we understand the Wisemen as they opened their treasures, as they bowed before this child King. What were they feeling? What did they really see? What were their hearts telling them?

The Wisemen have a heart for Christ Jesus, He Who was born King of the Jews. We believe they may have traveled two years to see King Jesus. And when they found King Jesus, they did not find royalty as is understood in this world. It is amazing that they were at peace in the midst of finding His home less than what they perhaps had anticipated. We do not hear them saying, "Oh, no! This cannot be." It was revealed to them that the Christ child was indeed King of kings, and they did not hesitate nor question what they saw.

The Oriental custom requires that an inferior shall approach his superior with a gift. But note that when they arrived, there was no evidence of the presence of royalty, no wealth. It is interesting in light of what they saw when they arrived at the home of the King of kings, a poor family, no presence of royalty, nothing to assure them that He, indeed, was the King of kings.

Experiencing the Wisemen's journey to see the King of kings in all of their wealth and living on a level of great elegance, their affluence, and living on a level of such grandeur, and bowing before King Jesus, the poorest of poor – causes me to see the sinfulness, and lacking greatly in "The Love of God," and lacking in the ability to comprehend a love that causes someone, King Jesus, to lay His life down for me – for – me – in my sinfulness, in my inability to comprehend even the word

ἀγαπάω.

I, no doubt, have answered with Peter the Lord's question to him – φιλέω, if not in words, then in deeds – as did Peter soon after Passover, when he denied the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

The Wisemen's gifts were expensive gifts, gifts appropriate for a king, and, yet, when they saw the dire circumstances of the King Jesus, they did not withdraw the gifts in their hearts – nor physically did they withdraw from giving to Him their gifts. As stated above, they had no doubts but that they were in the presence of the King of kings and opened their treasures such as were offered to kings by ambassadors or vassals.

And, now – what gift have you to open before the King of kings? The humble will not be stopped, will not hesitate, when finding the One Whom they seek and find to be in obscure places – after having sought for Him in places of rejection.

Oh, how often we stumble when we fail to find the Lord Jesus Christ in places of luxury, in places of opulence - and we find Him and His followers in obscure places of abode, places not acceptable to those of higher living. But if we are

seeking the Lord with all our heart, we will not stumble when we find the Lord and His followers in obscure dwellings. The question may be, Are we seeking Jesus Christ. Or are we seeking another, someone who will give us the world' or are we seeking the One Who gave His all for us, Who gave His life for us, One Who is servant of all – and, yet, Lord of all?

A question: Are we looking for a king of pomp and circumstance? Are we looking for a king that applauds us, that worships us and bows down to our every whim, our selfish way of life? We need to come to grips with what we are seeking and who it is we are seeking. Do we want to bow down before Him [Jesus Christ], love and adore Him, or are we looking for someone to bow before us? If you are seeking the Lord Jesus Christ, to worship and adore Him, then the question is, what have you brought to Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords?

Are you willing to offer Him your heart, knowing you are not worthy of Him, knowing you are lost, knowing you need cleansing by the Holy One? Are you willing to offer yourself, lay yourself before Him that you might be forgiven of your sins, cleansed and made whole by the King of kings? Are you willing to lay yourself before Him, revealing your sinfulness, allowing Him to take your life and make you whole in Him, allowing Him to draw you into His bosom that you shall become one with Him - and be His forevermore to be used as He desires? Are you willing to give Him your heart, not just a part – but all of you? Are you willing to commit your life to Him in all things and at all times?

The gifts of the Wisemen were gifts for a King, but also gifts that were a relief for Joseph and Mary to use in their poor condition of living, in their time of need to seek safety as King Herod had put out an order to kill all the children from two years old and under.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men (Mt 2.16).

The Wisemen offered themselves to the King of kings, though in a humble life that could have been so disappointing to them after the long, arduous journey. They fell before Him and worshipped Him – not once thinking of what the world would think, not thinking of what King Herod had said. They did not compare King Jesus with King Herod. They knew and recognized the King of kings and bowed down before Him to love and adore Him – not looking at the surroundings, not looking at what was lacking of the worldly goods. They had eyes to behold the beauty, the holiness of the Lord God Almighty. Their hearts were so enveloped in the Word of the Lord, no doubt, that nothing could deter them from knowing they had indeed been in the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Oh! how glorious is Thy name, O Lord, in all the earth. I believe the Wisemen were so full of the glory of the Lord, of His majesty, because of the revelation given them, and because of their response to the star: "I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord . . .".