



Mighty in the Word

"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*

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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They Returned Another Way

Doh! that we might return another way. I often tell people that if you go to Church and you do not leave another way, you have not been to Church. If you read the Bible, and do not return another way, something is amiss. Just what were you reading?

When people go to "church," and they do not return another way, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was not preached and/or the people did not have ears to hear the Word of the Lord. If you read the Bible and you do not return another way, you have read only the words; they are empty words to you.

When going to Church where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, one cannot help but know the presence of the Lord God Almighty, one cannot help but be pricked in their heart; one cannot leave that service without returning another way – unless, unless the person chooses to blatantly reject the Lord Jesus Christ. The same is true of reading the Bible.

I cannot imagine what it would be like to make the trip the Wisemen made, a trip already most challenging as they endeavored to find the King of kings, Lord of lords, the Christ child – without even thinking of leaving to return another way to their home, leaving under duress because King Herod, realizing they had not obey his command to find "the young child," and return to him with the information, thus, the king, no doubt, sought them for not returning to him as he told them.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *[him]*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was (Mt 2.8, 9).

However, their lives were changed, no doubt, when they saw the Christ child, when they worshipped the King of kings and Lord of lords, and offered unto Him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They could not help but return another way after their experience with the King of kings.

I believe the Wisemen left in silence, each one left pondering what had taken place, what was it that they experienced. I believe that when we experience the presence of the Lord, there is nothing to say. It is a time of just being in the presence of the Holy

hearing of what the Lord Jesus Christ was saying to them. They knew His voice, and they were determined to walk in obedience to Him – come what may.

Where are you and I in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Are we trying to walk with one foot in the world – and one with the Lord? You cannot serve two masters, the Holy Bible states clearly.

I encourage each of us to choose this day to go on with the Lord – come what may, to walk in obedience to Him with joy and gladness of heart, trusting Him all the way – whatever comes our way.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

One, the Lord Jesus Christ, to receive from Him that which He alone can give, life now and forevermore, when we respond to Him with a "Yes!"

When lives are touched by the hand of God and there is receptivity, hunger, longing for Jesus, lives are changed. However, I believe if we daily chose to open our hearts and lives to the King of kings, our lives would be changed, and – and also there would be a chain reaction that the place where you live would be changed for the glory of the Lord God, which would, in turn, spread beyond where you live. Imagine a nation being changed for the Lord – all because, all because one person turned their life over to the Lord, then another, and another, and another.

We are in a mode, after the breakdown of teaching and learning many, many years ago, to think like the world, to walk like the world, to be blind to what is going on around us. We hear over and over and over again, "What can I do?" The dominoes are falling, and I cannot stop them. I must go down with the rest of the dominoes and let happen what will happen. I can do nothing.

This is a mind set that Stan has so easily and blatantly used to turn hearts to accept as truth, the truth of Satan, a lie, for in Matthew 19.26 and Philippians 4.13, we read

But Jesus beheld *[them]*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

One woman took prayer out of school and, yet, many who say they are Christians sit by and say, "I cannot do anything about what is going on," and continue following the world. Am I suggesting prayer should be put back in the schools? Oh, no, for today there are many gods to whom it is being taught one can pray. Oh, no, for today, in schools there is much teaching about the many gods of this world – taught in the name of "culture."

My comment is to say that when we believe in Jesus Christ and we are living for Him, committed to Him, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

I do not believe the Wisemen grumbled and were angry that they were told to return another way. I do not believe they began blaming the Lord God for what happened, that they had to return another way, a way that most likely was more challenging, may have taken longer. Can you imagine, they were possibly away from their home for six years – and never are we told they grumbled against the Lord for any inconvenience they had in their lives, their journey.

I wonder what it would be like to be so thankful for the Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be no grumbling against Him. I believe they loved the Lord so very much that they could see only His love, His grace, and give thanks that they had the glorious calling to follow the star.

Jesus, forgive me for the lack of faith and the lack of living out my faith in the midst of adversity, during those times Satan came against me so strongly and used "christians" to do it. Forgive me for grumbling, Lord.

Oh, my desire is to be like the Wisemen who seemingly could see only Jesus, only King Jesus, and rejoice in all that touched their lives, the presence of the Lord God – but, also knew the work of Satan who comes against those who seek to live for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think of Jeremiah 12 where Jeremiah is discouraged and complains to the Lord about the prosperity of the wicked.

Righteous *[art]* thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of *[thy]* judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? *[wherefore]* are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou *[art]* near in their mouth, and far from their reins (Jer 12.1, 2).

How guilty we are in taking our eyes off of Jesus Christ and looking all around us, then grumbling and complaining about our lives, rather than giving thanks for the presence of the Lord in our lives - when we endeavor to live for the Lord, to serve Him in all we do.

Jeremiah 12.5 is an appropriate verse for those of us who complain and take our eyes off of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and *[if]* in the land of peace, *[wherein]* thou trustedst, *[they wearied thee]*, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

Oh, I do not believe the Wisemen complained one moment. I believe they left King Jesus rejoicing that they had been with Him and were obedient unto the voice of the Lord to "return another way." I believe that returning another way certainly dealt with their physical return to their homeland. Perhaps it was a greater challenge to return the way they did but – also a greater challenge in their walk with the Lord. How often do we endeavor to surrender our will to the Lord, endeavor to live for Him, endeavor to be more bold about our love for the Lord Jesus Christ, endeavor to hear His voice as we are returning another way in our hearts, our minds as well as physical change – only – only to be confronted by the enemy placing hardships in our lives because of our love for the Lord, because of our desire to walk in obedience to the calling of the Lord upon our lives.

It is then that we often are discouraged in our walk with the Lord, asking the Lord, "Did I not hear You speak to me?" Oh, when we endeavor to walk with the Lord in obedience to His calling upon our lives, Satan comes in to discourage us, and then the doubts come in our lives of, Did I hear from the Lord? Was that not the leading of the Lord that caused me to do what I did? Then comes the question, Is it Satan who is discouraging me because I did hear from the Lord, and I am following the Lord's leading in my life?

The Wisemen returned another way! We do not read of any discouragement, any doubts, any discussion, of "which way should we turn?" I believe they pursued returning another way with all their hearts knowing the Lord Jesus Christ would lead them in the way they should go – because their hearts were fine tuned to the