

Charrington

12/20/64

"And they came into the Home" 4.7m

Scripture Lesson: - Matthew 2: 1-12"

Text: - Matthew 2: 11. I.

Introduction: - On the night that Jesus was born Bethlehem was full of people. There was no room for them in the inn. They were there from various motives; some to tax their fellow men; some to pay their taxes; some to do business where a crowd has gathered. Each man succeeded in his quest, some collected, some paid, some did good business. Yes, you generally get what you go after in life. The Wise Men men with a star in their eyes inquire along the way, "Where is he that is born a king?" ~~They find a King in his~~ Others must have seen the child, for the place was not too secluded, but he was only another baby and babies were quite common. You see, it is just this, you must have a star in your eyes and a quest in your soul to come into house and recognize the King.

II.

The Wise Men had made a long journey. They had come from the east, across deserts, forded rivers, through a country that has remained through many centuries one of the most hostile in the world.

During World War I they used to sing, "There is a long, long trail awinding into the land of my dreams". Is it not true that the great things of life come generally after the long quest and the long patience? We make our little

trips, and we are very busy making them, and they pay us in pleasure for a day. But that which we remember long, that which pays during all of life in enrichment of memory and character, is the long journey. (Our trip to Spain)

It is not easy; money must be expended; energy is given out; there are days when one feels like giving up and going back to; there are difficulties and obstructions that get one down. What keeps the Wise Men on the caravan trail?

A star in their eyes and a hope in their hearts

How quickly we make long journeys now with mechanical wings, but spiritual wings for spiritual journeys must be grown, and that takes a long time. That good life, that Spiritual life held true by a spiritual ideal, is needed to make the long journey under a star.

III.

They came into the house. It may be that they were loath to bid farewell to the friendly star. God had set that star in the skies.

"Whenever you see men strong and steadfast and enduring on spiritual quest, they are looking to the lamp of heaven and not on earth's candle. If they battle bravely and journey with zeal unquenchable, and if nothing can turn them from their unheard-of quest, it is because they follow a light that is hung aloft by God.

A great man once said, "You may make up your mind that all the great enthusiasms have at the heart of them something religious. When a life is filled with a wuilet purpose, like the Wise Men we come into the house at last. Who put that purpose in our hearts. Who hung that star

in the sky. Let us take another look at the star.

IV.

"And they saw the young child."

The Magi were reputed to be kings. Those who knew the glitter of palaces might have been offended by the litter of the stable. But their eyes were attracted by the Babe. He was the center of interest to them. Their first interest was to worship Him. The traditional pictures of the nativity scene show the animals standing about. This by contrast might emphasize the fact that man's gift from God is greater than theirs. Man can worship. No lesser creatures can do this. It is given to angels and archangels, these higher creatures which sang to the shepherds on Bethlehem's plain.

"They opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts."

Certainly they did. They had caught the spirit of the event, for that was what God was doing through the Child. He was giving. He was making love incarnate; he was changing a thing spiritual into something, into someone whom men would see and hear and touch. Deity was revealed in human form. The very God had become flesh.

So we humans, in our small way; we take our love and our gratitude and make them real in gifts which can be seen and handled. The Wise Men opened their treasures and took out the royal gold, their sweet incense, their bitter myrrh, and laid them before the Child.

V.

"They came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother." Mark you, they saw the Child and Mary; not Mary and the Child. There is a difference. They saw the Child and

Mary; and the radiance of the Child was shimmering upon the face of Mary. They saw the ordinary transformed, for in that day motherhood was ordinary. Neither art nor literature nor custom exalted motherhood. But the light of the Babe shines upon that face and ever since that moment all motherhood becomes radiant and exalted.

Conclusion:- The ordinary transformed, that must happen here under the influence of Christ, homes filled with love, labor transfigured, all high quests ennobled, all relationships of life sweetened. This will happen when we find Christ at the center of life. And now, like the Wise Men of old, having followed a star, having made a long journey, having worshipped the Child, we shall return by a different road. We have seen the Child and have worshipped Him.

"They opened their treasures, they presented
ed unto him gifts."

certainly they did. They had caught the spirit of the event, for that was what God was doing through the Child. He was giving. He was making love incarnate; he was turning a thing spiritual into something tangible. Someone whom men would see and hear and touch. Deity was revealed in human form. The very God had become flesh.

So we humans in our small way; we take our love and our gratitude and make them real in gifts which can be seen and handled. The Wise Men opened their treasures and took out the royal gold, their sweet incense, their bitter myrror, and laid them before the Child.

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