

Friday

Read Matthew 7:7-8 & Acts 17:24-28. There were a lot of things that the Magi didn't know about Jesus, but that didn't keep them from seeking and eventually finding Him.

What does the story of the Magi teach you about God's grace?

What does it teach you about God's desire for human beings?

How does this fact encourage you in your own spiritual journey?

Thank God that he wanted you to find Him! Thank God for giving guidance to all who seek Him. Pray for one person you know who is still seeking God. As an act of worship, ask God to use you in this person's life to help point the way to Jesus Christ.

Saturday

Brush up on this week's memory verse (Psalm 95:6) and review any days you may have missed during the week. Pray for this weekend's services and that our new message series, Real Change, will result in many lives being changed by Christ!

MIRACLE

Making the Miracle Personal

Mark Spurlock
December 27 & 28, 2008

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, 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.'" *Matthew 2:1-3a* (NIV)

"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."'" *Matthew 2:3b-6*

"Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'" *Matthew 2:7-8*

"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." *Matthew 2:9-11*

"And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route." *Matthew 2:12*

Notes:

"Thou hast made us for thyself and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."
The Confessions of St. Augustine

Daily Meditations

Monday

Did you get what you wanted this Christmas? What desires do you still have? Write at least one thing down:

Look up Matthew 2:1-12. What did the Magi desire? What did Herod desire?

Read Psalm 37:3-5. Now reflect on your desire(s) in light of this passage. How can you “delight yourself” in the Lord today?

Ask God to help you to delight in Him today. Offer your desires to Him as an act of worship and ask God to clarify or confirm them for you.

Tuesday

Look up Matthew 2:1-12 again. Why was Herod “disturbed”? (v. 3b)

Do you think the chief priests and the scribes were disturbed? Why, or why not?

What disturbs you? Write at least one thing down:

What does the thing, or things, that disturb you reveal about your desires?

Should these things disturb you? Why or why not?

As an act of worship, talk to God about whatever it is that disturbs you. Ask God to give you a heart that is disturbed over the things that matter, and at ease over the things that don't.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 25:9, Isaiah 58:11 & Matthew 2:10. The Magi received direction from God in a unique way. How have you received God's direction in your life?

What do these verses teach you about how God guides and directs us?

What prevents you from seeking God's direction, or following it?

Thank God today for the guidance that He has given you over this past year. Ask Him to direct you throughout this last day of 2008. As an act of worship, tell God that you are willing to follow Him wherever he leads you in 2009.

Thursday

Happy New Year! Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 2:11 & Romans 12:1. What do these verses teach you about our response to God?

How would you describe your own response to God?

In what way or ways is it difficult for you to respond to God?

What are you tempted to hold back? Why?

Talk to God about the things you struggle to trust Him with. Ask God to give you the desire to offer your whole being — doubts, struggles, and all — to Him. On this first day of the year, you can worship God by offering yourself as a “living sacrifice.” Now ask for the grace necessary to do this!



Memory Verse

“Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”
Psalm 95:6 (NIV)