



Jan 3, 2021. Mt. 2:1-12. Is. 60:1-6

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Each year we revisit this text to start of a new calendar year. Down through the ages we have called these visitors from afar “wise men”. A close look at the gospel however reveals that they only became wise AFTER they saw the holy family! They came looking for a king. The kind of king that would appreciate gold, frankincense and myrrh, and they found a humble family at home. It took the dream in which God warned them to go home another way, before they “wised up”. Their wisdom came from listening to the “voice” of God that emerged from within their own hearts. We re-visit this text to

celebrate what is known as the Epiphany. They literally had their “epiphany” in those dreams and had the wisdom to respond in an uncommon way. May this year be one where we each do the likewise.

Mt. 2:1-12

1 Now, when Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of **Judaea** in the days of **Herod** the king, behold, there came **wise men** from the east to **Jerusalem**, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews**? for we have seen his **star** in the east, and are come to **worship** him. 3 When **Herod** the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all **Jerusalem** with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he **demanded** of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In **Bethlehem** of **Judaea**: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou **Bethlehem**, in the land of **Juda**, art not the least among the princes of **Juda**: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then **Herod**, when he had **privily** called the **wise men**, enquired of them **diligently** what time the **star** appeared. 8 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. 9 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. 10 When they saw the **star**, they rejoiced with exceeding great **joy**. 11 And when they were come into the **house**, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and **worshipped** him: and when they had opened their **treasures**, they presented unto him gifts; **gold**, and **frankincense**, and **myrrh**. 12 And being **warned** of God in a **dream** that they should not return to **Herod**, they departed into their own country another way.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The wise men knew the tradition that a new king would be born in Bethlehem. As good researchers, they followed this outstanding star to its location and found the child. What leads you to the child this Epiphany? What signs and traditions help you in the search?

PRAYER: Lord, we also are scanning the heavens for signs of your coming, when we should be scanning our hearts instead. You chose then, and continue to choose now, to come to us in unassuming and hidden ways. You guide us by faithfully leading us in the right direction if we but listen to your voice. Help us to become wise like those long ago searchers. Then we will have brought the only gift you desire, our hearts. Amen.