

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Real Life Stories of God Sightings Series**

Lesson 33

Lesson Title: Wise Men Visit Jesus

Take Home Point: Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of our lives.

Warm-Up:

Millions of readers over the years have enjoyed the stories about Sherlock Holmes and other first rate detectives. What was it that separated these “super-sleuths” from those around them? All involved frequently saw the same scenes, heard the same witnesses, and reviewed the same evidence. But investigators such as Holmes gleaned far more because they had trained their senses and minds to carefully observe and consider all the available information. In the real world, the same is true for anyone who seriously practices an art or skill or trade – they perceive far more than the uninitiated. The same need for keen perception and appropriate response applies in the spiritual realm, where, in the long run, it is much more important.

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

Observation (What happened?):

Who specifically did the Magi ask for when they reached Jerusalem?

What did they do when they saw Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How might Joseph and Mary have responded to the worship and gifts of the men from the East?

Aside from Herod's paranoia, why do you think “all Jerusalem” was disturbed by the questions of the Magi?

Insight:

Most of us have become so familiar with the recorded events surrounding the birth of Jesus that we miss ideas behind the words. For instance, have you ever considered why it was so important to the Magi to visit the “king of the Jews” to worship him? The Bible does not indicate they were Jews themselves, so why undertake such a demanding and dangerous journey for the king of another people? What drove them to do that, and to bring such gifts? Certainly we benefit from their example of worship and giving. But just as we considered with Simeon last week, how were these men “moved by the Spirit?” A clear voice? A subtle urging in their soul? We don't know for sure, but it's a good illustration of how God can call and use anyone he chooses for his purposes when they are spiritually aware. Also notice there is no mention of any Jews following the Magi to Bethlehem. In just the opposite way, it demonstrated that a spiritually dull people would not see God even when they see the answers written before their very eyes.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord of your life? How do you show him?

What is Jesus asking you to give him? (It may not be something physical – perhaps spending time with him, serving the poor or displaced, or even simply forgiving someone from your heart.)

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