

GOD USES DIFFERENT METHODS

Matthew 2:1-2

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No two people are alike and therefore different methods are necessary at times to communicate the same thing to different people. God uses different methods to speak to people - thunder, lightening, angels, animals, voice out of the clouds or the sky, etc. If God uses different methods to speak to people, then perhaps God's Church should also use different methods to reach people for the Lord as well. When Jesus was born, God used a very unusual method to let some men know who lived far away - God used a star.

I. GOD USES METHODS THAT PEOPLE CAN UNDERSTAND

1. The Magi had studied the stars all their lives.
- God used a single star to get their attention.
2. The Magi knew nothing about God's angels and such, so God spoke to them in a voice that they could understand - stars.
3. God's voice as like the sound of many waters and as a Father, God speaks to His children in ways that they can understand.

II. PEOPLE COME TO KNOW THE LORD JESUS IN DIFFERENT WAYS

1. The Old Testament Prophets pointed to Jesus.
2. The Law pointed to Jesus.
3. The sacrifices on the Jewish altars pointed to Jesus.
4. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus.
5. A star pointed to Jesus.
- Pointing to Jesus is not the normal function of a star, yet three men from a distant country were led to the baby Jesus by a star.
6. One should never limit the power of God in opening up ways to coming to know the Lord Jesus.
7. People have come to know the Lord Jesus by hearing a stray word in passing, by some act of self-sacrificing kindness or even the a child's giggling laughter.

III. GOD CREATES INTENSE CUROSITY ABOUT THE LORD JESUS

1. Out of curosimy and a great interest the Magi left their home and set out to follow the star, facing dangers and difficulties, not knowing exactly what they would find.
- Had they know it would be a baby, would they have made the long journey?
2. Out of curosimy the Magi traveled hundreds of miles, talked to people in Jerusalem, refused to stop their search.

3. From that time to today, curiosity about the Lord Jesus has never died away.
 - In all of history, Jesus has been the fascinating person.
 - More thoughts are directed to Jesus than of any other person.
 - More books have been written about Jesus than any other person.
 - People are still as curious about Jesus today as the Magi were when they saw His star.

IV. THE MOST CURIOUS ABOUT JESUS WERE THOSE FROM FAR AWAY

1. The most curious about Jesus were people (Magi) from far away.
 - There were many in Bethlehem but not curious.
 - It was the three from many miles away that were eager to find the newborn Savior.
2. In this country, in our own land, there is a danger of careless unconcern about the Lord Jesus.
 - Missionaries are sent from this land to foreign lands and in those foreign lands there is an interest in the Lord Jesus that is much greater than in this land of ours.

V. FINDING JESUS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN BE FOUND

1. The Queen of Sheba went from Arabia to Jerusalem to see the wonders and she was stunned and amazed at such lavishness and went back home talking about what she had seen.
2. The Magi from the East came to the inn in the little town of Bethlehem expecting to see some one of great royal majesty, but found a tiny newborn baby - the Lord Jesus.
 - Were they disappointed?
 - Was the trip worth it?
 - Was the little baby all that there was to the star and the long trip?
3. Many are tempted to ask, when they meet the Lord Jesus, "Is it worth all this effort?"
 - "Is this all there is to the story of Jesus?"
 - "Isn't there something else?"
4. The trip was worth all the effort and expense the Magi underwent for they were told by God to go back home another way and not tell the King anything about the baby Jesus.
 - Yes their efforts, long trip and expense was worth it.

CONCLUSION:

1. God uses different methods to speak to people.
 - Songs, witnesses, sermons, friendships, difficulties, kindness, situations, etc.
2. People in foreign countries are becoming more Jesus conscious than our own country of America.
3. One day Jesus will return for His Church and like the Magi from the East, the journey we have taken for the Lord Jesus will be worth it all.