

BOXING DAY SERVICE 26/12/04 MATT 2 THE MAGI

Of all the stories that accompanied.....true to say.....most people are fascinated.....wise men...

As a kid.....always saw their part...one to be sought after in the nativity play

Joseph was always a big hit to aim for
Shepherds were only a little better than being a cow...
sheep....back end of....

But to be a wise man.....with the colourful costume...
exotic looking gifts....!!!!

This fascination with these Eastern visitors.....

has led to much speculation by...

So they became three in number....account of the 3 gifts

Emphasis was put on them as Kings rather than respected and wise Astrologers

It was said that they represented the 3 sons of Noah.....with one depicted as a negro...

They were even given names.....and their gifts were endowed with symbolism

Some of this could well be true.....

But the point is that we have in the Bible....all we need to know

That they were men from the East....who looked for signs.....in the stars
That they were also familiar.....OT prophetic writings.....
that talked of a King.... Who would bring peace to the whole world.....

And when they first saw the star they had no doubt whatsoever....

And consequently traveled many miles to the capital.....

With a question on their lips that showed.....that they expected to discover this King Matt 2:2.....

How surprised...must have been to find that no one else was looking.....waiting...caring

But they continued till they found the One they looked for
And despite the humble surroundings...**they Knew this was the One**
And the gifts they gave were the best they could give

So these men became the first Gentiles to worship Him born as Saviour of the world
Because God in His love...touched their hearts.....with a knowledge of Jesus
That they chose to respond to

Their reaction to the knowledge that God revealed.....was entirely different to the reaction of King Herod.....and to that of the Jewish religious leaders.

Which is quite strange when u think about it

For Herod and the Jews had so much more to go on

They had a history of revelation stretching back thro the centuries
The word of the prophets.....to which they even referred
They were called the children of God !!!!!

Yet Herod reacted with fear and brutality

He had sufficient belief in God's promise.....to sense that there could be truth in what

He believed enough... attempt to destroy this One that the Prophets foretold

Yet also foolishly felt....that if this was really the promised Messiah
He had the power to defeat Almighty God's plan and purpose

The Jewish leaders were also troubled by the news the wise men brought
And were in fact forced to find a Biblical answer for it
But in the end they did nothing.....
and in so doing rejected the chance of worship

The same event.....the same Christ child.....
The same Almighty God touching hearts...setting great signs in the sky
Predicting thro His Word the birth....even to the place

Yet the reception our Lord received was so different

This morning we automatically align ourselves.....with the Wise men
For we too are here to worship Him

But the challenge for us is.....**Are we also like them open to the Lord's voice....however it may come**

Are we opening ourselves to hear and obey His commands....
thro our study of His Word
Our times with Him in prayer

And in particular.....are we too ready to give Him our costliest treasures
Our lives in service.....Our time and energy in evangelism.....
So that as we fall down in worship.....we do so with hands hearts...lives
For Him to use as He wills

For He is our King....our Lord....Saviour and Master,