

A DEEPER WAY

January 5, 2020

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Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently

for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What is your vision for 2020? What words, goals or values are you focusing on, if any?
3. Why might it be significant that Magi (astrologers, non-Jews from the East) travel to acknowledge Jesus? What might that mean about the scope and reach of God's vision?
4. What might be the difference between vision and sight? Why might vision be an important part of our spiritual lives?

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5. Review and reflect on the drafted vision frame for South Elkhorn. It is meant to capture who we are, drive us forward, and help create a vision for living out God's call each year.

South Elkhorn's Vision Frame

Mission

What we are uniquely called to do as church

Inspiring Christ's deeper way of love

Values

What inspires us as church...

Extravagant Welcome

Real Rest

Spiritual Resilience

Courageous Conversation

Contagious Joy

Marks

We make Disciples who have...

Open Heart
Sharing Life,
Braving Vulnerability

Open Arms
Embracing Difference,
Extending Grace

Open Hands
Serving Others,
Giving Generously

Open Eyes
Seeking Wisdom
Beholding Wonder

Open Ears
Creating Stillness,
Listening Carefully

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