

“Joy in the Spirit”

Script - Ps. 8:3-6

A. The Background and setting (Mt. 2:1-11)

1. They came from the East to Jerusalem (Mt. 2:1-2). They were guided to Jerusalem. The prophecies of Balaam in Numb. 24:17 said, “A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...”.
2. “Vs. 9-10 They followed the star to Jerusalem. They had to be disappointed when they came to Jerusalem for several reasons;
 - a. The star guided them, but the child was not there when they arrived. They had invested a lot of time and energy but they did not find what they were looking for.
 - b. They were not Jewish. He was not their king or Messiah. But they were educated men and they had studied the prophecies and received divine insights from God that encouraged them to pursue it further, than just study from books. The Jewish people in Jerusalem were troubled when they came asking about the Messiah. Apparently, they were an important enough group so they were directed to Herod for directions and counsel.
3. Apparently the wise men lost sight of the star while they were in Jerusalem. How do we know that? They had to stop and ask directions about where the child was when they got into Jerusalem. Herod had to ask them *when* does the star appear? If he could have looked up and seen it, he wouldn't have to ask them. It does not say that the star hovered over Jerusalem. Or maybe it was during the daytime that he interviewed them and the star would only be visible during the night.
3. After they left Jerusalem for Bethlehem then the star re-appeared and it says, when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. NKJV
 - a. They were committed to the journey and also to the king that was born, as it says they came to “worship him”.
 - b. “Exceedingly great joy”. Vehemently; high, large, mighty; cheerfulness, calm delight.

B. Why would it mean so much for them to see the star again?

1. It meant that they were on the right track with what they had already done, and already invested.
 - a. What does it feel like to be affirmed? How important is it to be affirmed? Some people may need it more than others. Some may not need it at all. How important is it to be affirmed by God? Biblical examples - (Lk. 10:17. Notice “joy” is what they received *when* the 70 exercised the power that was given to them from Jesus. Mt. 25:14-30 Phil. 2:1-4).
2. God used different methods to guide them throughout their journey.
 - a. His word (Micah 5:2).
 - b. The star (supernatural means).
 - c. Herod and the priest.
3. How did the wise men get to the place where they had this exceeding great joy?
 - a. They studied the prophecies to gain insights into events around them. More than a casual reading.
 - b. They wanted greater wisdom and they found it. You don't get this joy from just reading a Bible text or a passage so you can fulfill your reading assignment for the day. They were really seeking

for answers and were willing to spend time and energy to find this Messianic child. They were really searching. Are you really searching? (Jer. 29:13). Are you hungry and thirsty? (Mt. 5:6).

- c. They were searching for the child. That means they were asking for guidance. You will NOT find what you are NOT looking for. When there is no harbor that you're looking for, no wind is the right wind. (Lk. 11:13; James 4:2; Mt. 7:7; Mt. 13:45-46; Ps. 81:10).
4. What does the bible say about the Holy Spirit? Convict you of sin (Jn. 16:8).
- a. He can give you wisdom and understanding (Jn. 16:13-15). Those that didn't have the Holy Spirit had their understanding darkened (Eph. 4:17-19).
 - b. He can guide you (Jn. 16:13-15).
 - c. He will comfort you (Jn. 16:7).
 - d. He will speak to you (Isa. 30:21; 1 Ki. 19:11-12).
5. Benefits of having the Holy Spirit in your life
- a. Having power in your life (Mt. 10:7-8; Acts 1:4-8) and becoming a witness for him.
 - b. He gives you guidance and direction (Mt. 2).
 - c. He gives you special understanding and insights (Eph. 4:17-19).
 - d. He brings joy into your life Mt. 2:1-10; Gen. 18:17-21).
 - e. You have the assurance of salvation (The wise men found Jesus; Saul of tarsus had this joy Phil. 2:1-4 but claimed to be innocent of all blood of others Acts. 20:26).
- C. How do we get these blessings?
- 1. Spend time setting the stage by prayer and meditation.
 - 2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon your life (Lk. 11:13)
 - 3. Learn to listen to that still small voice (Isa. 30:21; I Ki. 19:11-12).
 - 4. Respond quickly so you cultivate a sensitivity (2 Th. 2:10-12).

Remember that sometimes God guides us where we didn't want to go. But God has a plan (Mt. 2:1-10).

The demons knew Jesus and Paul's name (Acts 19:11-15). Would they know your name? Are you acting upon the power that Jesus gave to you? (Mt. 10:6-7). Have you experienced the Joy of the Holy Spirit operating in your life? Do you have the assurance of your salvation?