

# Christmas on the Road

Matthew 2.1-12

Our text today tells us about some wise men. They were seekers of the truth and they had come upon some very important knowledge. That knowledge alone is not what made them wise; it is what they did with it. What can these Magi teach us today? By looking at several characteristics of their wisdom, (if we will be open to follow their example) we may find the ability to live above the level of ordinary.

## They Were Filled With Anticipation

*“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘**Where is the one** who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’”* Matthew 2.1-2

## They Were Willing to Take the Risk

*“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi **from the east came** to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? **We saw** his star in the east and **have come** to worship him.’”*

*When **King Herod** heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.*

*Then **Herod** called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, **report to me**, so that I too may go and worship him.’”* Matthew 2.1-3, 7-8

## They Were Open to New Discovery

*“When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them **where the Christ was to be born**. In Bethlehem in Judea, they replied, for this is what the prophet has written:*

*‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”* Matthew 2.4-6

*“**Shepherd your people** with your staff, the flock of your inheritance...*

*Who is a God like you,*

*who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?*

*You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.*

*You will again have compassion on us;*

*you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*

*You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham,*

*as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.”* Micah 7.14, 18-20

*“Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us.*

*They will strike Israel’s ruler on the cheek with a rod.*

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,*

*out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,*

*whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*

***He will stand and shepherd his flock***

*in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.*

*And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.*

***And he will be their peace.”*** Micah 5.1-5a

## They Had a Heart for Worship

*“When they saw the star, they were **overjoyed**. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they **bowed down and worshiped him**. Then they opened their treasures and **presented him with gifts** of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”* Matthew 2.10-11

## They Had a Determination to Obey

*“And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”* Matthew 2.12