

## SEEKING WISDOM

Being a Pastor I realize I am on the clock responding to people's needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week unless I am on holidays. Most times people reach out to me between the hours of 6:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. but there are some occasions when I am awakened in the middle of the night. This happened to me Friday morning around 2:00 a.m. when I was awoken by a text message asking for some pastor talk from my daughter.

I was surprised I even heard the text because I tend to be a sound sleeper. Her text said, *"Dad. Pastor talk with you really quick. How would you describe the 3 Wise Men? In the funniest way you can think of."* This is quite a request considering I had just been awoken. My first attempt at humor in the wee hours of Friday morning was to respond, *"Wise with gifts but not directions, or wiser than the three stooges."* I got a response back from my daughter saying, *"That is okay but who are they in the name of comedy?"*

By this time, I had been awake for at least 5 minutes, so my mind was becoming clearer. I sent these two replies:

- *They were on the Eastern All-Star Team.*
- *They were the first Amazon delivery people with packages and may have even developed the Amazon smile after seeing Jesus.*

My daughter gave me a 10 out of 10 for these responses and complimented me for being on a roll. I liked the compliment and of course had to respond by saying, *"Not bad for two in the morning, but imagine if I had a Tim Hortons coffee in hand right now."* Getting her sense of humor from you-know-who she replied, *"You should try and slide some of these lines into your sermons."* I told her I would think about it, but there would be a greater chance this conversation would make it into my mid-week message.

People might be thinking right now that it is way too early to be writing about the three wise men. It is legitimate to think this considering we just started the first week of fall this Monday and still have three months until the end of the year. The more I thought about the timing of being reminded by my daughter of the story of the Wise Men, I realized this is an ideal time for us to revisit their journey.

We do not know a lot about the wise men such as which country they lived in, nor how they came to know that the appearance of the star was associated with the birth of the Messiah. We do know that these wise men traveled thousands of miles to see Him. We also know that after Herod revealed to them that Bethlehem had been foretold as the birthplace of the one to become the king of the Jews, the wise men journeyed there and were filled with joy as they worshipped the child and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time for them to leave Bethlehem,

they were warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod and they followed this wisdom.

The reason why I feel it is important for us to be reminded of this story now, is so we can reflect upon how wise we have been journeying in our relationship with Jesus during these first nine months of 2025. Questions this story should get us reflecting upon might be:

- *Have we been journeying closer toward Jesus, standing still, or moving in the opposite direction from Him so far this year?*
- *Have we been allowing our hearts to be filled with joy by worshipping Jesus for who He is this year?*
- *Have we been offering our gifts to Jesus reflecting who He is in our lives or have we been withholding them this year?*
- *Have we been listening wisely to the Father's wisdom and advice to us this year or ignoring it?*

What made these men so wise was their desire to find Jesus, to worship Him, to give back to Him, and to obey divine wisdom. This story should make us pause and consider if we have been displaying this same wisdom in our journey so far in 2025. Jesus' half brother James tells we can always receive wisdom from God:

**If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver for a person with a divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:5-6)**

James shares here that asking for wisdom from God is ultimately showing our desire to become more Christ-like by not only acknowledging His existence and loving care but also showing our undivided loyalty by committing ourselves wholeheartedly to His ways because He knows best. Hopefully we have been showing this kind of wisdom in these first 9 months of 2025, but if not, let's make the wise choice moving forward by seeking the Father's advice and becoming more Christ-like as we finish out the year.

Some might be wondering why my daughter messaged me when she did. Apparently three guys that she became friends with over the summer messaged her to see if her pastor dad felt it would be appropriate if they dressed up as the three wise men at Halloween. I don't know how wise these three guys are, but I do know their interest might result in revealing to them the wisdom of seeking Jesus. Hopefully it has made for a good mid-week message too. Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean