

“Lessons From The Wise Men”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Here we are at Epiphany: the celebration of when the Wise Men, who followed the star, found the Christ Child and gave him gifts. Their journey is recorded in Matthew 2:1-12.

Notice some things with me: 1.) They did not hide the purpose of their journey. All of Jerusalem knew they were in the area and why. ³When Herod the king heard this, he was disturbed and troubled, and the whole of Jerusalem with him. (vs. 3 AMP)

2.) They went to the logical place to find a king and quickly discovered that he was not in the logical place, so they continued to follow prophecy and the star even though it went against human logic.

3.) They were given directions (accurate directions) from one who was not a friend to them or to the Christ. ⁷Then Herod sent for the wise men . . . ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, Go and search for the Child carefully and diligently, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship

Him. (vs. 7-8 AMP)

Notes:

[a]

4.) The Wise Men did not assume that because Herod was helpful once he would be helpful again.

⁹When they had listened to the king, they went their way . . . (vs. 9 AMP)

¹²And receiving an answer to their asking, they were divinely instructed and warned in a dream not to go back to Herod; so they departed to their own country by a different way. (vs. 12 AMP)

Let us be like the Wise Men by: 1.) Making it well known the purpose of our sojourn on earth: to bring more people into Christ’s Kingdom. 2.) Follow God’s voice even if it seems illogical. 3.) Listen for discernment from the Father (through the Spirit and the Word) AND do not assume that because he had you go in a direction once he will have you go that way every time.

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The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



“Are You Valuable?” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 6:25-34



Each person may find themselves worrying about nearly any aspect of life. Worry^[1] is something medical professionals, psychologists, and behavior professionals say creates disease and dysfunction in peoples lives.

Notes:

[1] Merinnoo <G3309> to be anxious about:-(be, have) care (-ful), take thought. Strong’s Greek Hebrew Dictionary

What are some of the issues people find worrisome?

- Money is often at the top of the list of worrisome issues. Today, most people are employed by someone else. It has been pointed out that in 1900, 90% of the people in the United States were self-employed and by the year 2000 10% were self-employed. This then brings controversy over wages. People often think they are under appreciated and over worked and therefore under paid.
- Another area of worry is that life seems so unfair. Again, many people feel

unloved, unappreciated, and uninvolved in decisions which affect their quality of life. Many people feel as though they are victims in life, having little or no value.

Who Determines Value

When you consider your life where do you look for your personal value?

Do you find your personal value in what you are paid? If you do then if your pay goes up then you feel better about yourself and may well reward yourself with “extras” you feel you deserve and spend more, perhaps even creating debt. If your pay goes down or you become unemployed then you may feel as though you have little value.

Do you find your personal value in being loved and liked by others? This would mean the more who like you the more valuable you become.

Where does the value of a person come from anyway?

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Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

Do Not Worry

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life!^[a]

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like

Notes:

[a] Matthew 6:27 Or single cubit to his height

one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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Perhaps we need to look to the Creator to learn the answer. Is it not true that a person who creates a thing then determines the value of the thing created? Since mankind was not created by mankind then it is not mankind which determines the value of any person.

The Creator Sets Value

God, himself, greatly demonstrated the value of all mankind when he created mankind in his own image! Yes, in his own image made he them male and female made he them. ^{Gen. 5:1-2} It was after this that mankind rebelled against God by touching what God had reserved for himself in the fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Even then God did not give up on, abandon, or destroy the creation made in his image and likeness.

We have only to look at the words penned by the Apostle John so long ago to look at God's love for all mankind, even ourselves. John, in his gospel's third chapter, said:

^{John 3:16}For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life.

John even points out in the very next verse it was never God's intention to condemn mankind but to save (save, heal, deliver, preserve) mankind.

^{John 3:17}For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Accept Your Value

When a person accepts Christ as their Lord and Savior, they have accepted their value from the only one who has the right to determine their value, the God who created and loves them. He will care for them in his Kingdom, which is The Kingdom of his blessing. All reasons for worry are abolished because as the Apostle Matthew wrote what he heard Jesus say, ^{Mat. 6:31}"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."