

The Guiding Star.... 12/ 27/ 20

Micah 5: 1-4 and Matthew 2: 1-12

I was admiring our Nativity scene here

In front of the alter earlier this morning.

and as I was enjoying looking at this beautiful

set, Harlan Rump walked up to me....

....and Harlan as you all know-

has this great & authentic genuine Pennsylvania

German accent when he talks....you all know what I mean!

So Harlan says "Good Mornin' Chamie!" ...

"Boy this is a beautiful Nativity set ain't it"

And I said "it sure is Harlan and I continue by saying

"I wonder what it was really like, you know....could you

Imagine being in Bethlehem at Jesus' birth?"

"Oh that would have been something to see" Harlan said

"Except" he said "this here Nativity scene is all wrong "

And I said "Well what do you mean Harlan?"

They all have Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, barn animals,

shepherds and of course the three wise men"

And Harlan said “Ya but look close, it’s missing one important piece” So I looked closely and I inspected the Nativity scenes, but I couldn’t find anything. So finally Harlan says “Chamie Barton...do you mean to tell me you don’t know what’s missing?” And I said “I don’t”. “Holy smokes” Harlan said, “I can’t believe it!” So finally I said “ok what is it? What’s missing?” And Harlan said “Look at the three kings, the three wise men and tell me what’s missing vonst?” I looked, But I couldn’t find anything....so finally Harlan says to me...”It’s the far-mans helmets.... the three kings are missing their far-man’s helmets”So I said wait a minute Harlan...the three wise men weren’t wearing fireman helmets, they were wearing crowns. “Well I don’t know what bible you read Chamie...But everyone knows that the bible says the three kings came from **a far... and if they came from a far... they would be wearing their far-man’s helmets**

Let us Pray:

Heavenly father thank you for our sense of humor...

Now May the words of my lips and the meditation
of my heart be pleasing to you O God...Amen,

This is the first Sunday after Christmas.

The time of waiting and watching is over right?

Or is it?

This morning I want to focus on

the star that appeared.

There is a new light...

There is a new star...

Did everyone see the Star last week?

The two biggest planets in our solar system

Jupiter & Saturn were very close together

and it looked like one giant star.

Did any of you see it?

It was kind of foggy and overcast so it

was difficult to see.

But there were lots of pictures posted on TV and social media? Did you see them?

I think millions of people saw it!

(Pause) So here's my question to you this morning....

When Jesus was born,

Why were there only 3 wise men that followed?

Am I supposed to believe that only (3) wise kings from the far east and some shepherds were the only ones who saw this magnificent sight?

Why didn't the whole town of Bethlehem show up?

We don't know how many shepherds were there in Bethlehem...but why didn't everybody come?

After all this is our Savior's Birth!

Emmanuel!

And so my thought is :

that there were 3 types of people that existed then:

1. There were those who never saw the star
2. Some saw the star, but didn't follow it
3. And there were those who saw it and followed

What a magnificent initial sign of the birth of a savior

A star.....a new light in heaven...

a new light in the world!

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned” Mathew 4: 16

John 5: verse 35 says “He was a burning and shining lamp”

A savior is born...and the initial sign is a star....

The star is the sign of a new light.

But some never saw it....why?

Why didn't they see this star?

Were they sleeping?

Were they just unobservant by nature?

Were they too busy?

“Watch therefore for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight or at the cockcrow or in the morning...lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to you all: Watch!” (Mark 13:36)

(Pause) We are asked to watch

(Pause) We are told to stay alert

(Pause) We are asked to be ready.

We are to be looking for His presence!

We are to be aware of signs!

Some were simply unobserving,
they never noticed the sky full of stars,
let alone a new one.

They just don't look up.

They exist in their own little world.

A savior could come and go and
they would be totally unaware.

And some people never saw the star because
they were too busy.

Too busy to see a new light,

Too busy to see a new creation

We are simply too busy to see Jesus,

We don't have time to see the Son of God.

(Pause) And so some never saw the star:

They were either :

Sleeping, not watching or too busy.

“The true light that enlightens every man was coming
into the world. He was in the world; yet the world
knew him not.” (John 1:9)

Pause

And then there were those that saw the star,

They pointed to it,

They recognized it as something new

(Pause) yet they did nothing at all.

they never followed the star.

there were Chief priests, scribes

who saw the star but did nothing.

HEROD! Saw the star, but didn't follow it.

They just couldn't be troubled.

"It's a long way to Bethlehem you know"

"I think I'll wait until the weather improves"

"Perhaps he will come to us"

"It's probably nothing at all, maybe it's a UFO!"

Maybe some people were afraid to act?

I think these are the comments of -

the lazy people of God.

They had a poor attitude.

"What's the big deal?"

"So what, who cares"

They didn't recognize the significance of the star.

These are uneducated people of God.

They have forgotten the scripture from Numbers:

And I quote : “I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not nigh; a star shall come forth out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel” (chapter 24: verse 16)

His light was upon them but they failed to react or move or do anything!

They failed to understand its true meaning.

(Pause) And so some people did nothing with this new star, this sign in the Heavens.

PAUSE

And then there were those who saw the star and acted upon it!

“When they had heard the king, they set out; ahead of them went the star that they had seen at its rising , till it came to rest over the place where the child was.”

A portion of this morning Gospel lesson.

Just like Moses, the prophets,

Just like John the Baptist, just like the disciples...

The kings, the 3 wise men followed.

They knew their scriptures!

They knew the significance!

AND THEY ACTED UPON IT!!!!

They saw a sign that could only come from God and they followed

They went to where this sign from Heaven led them

They were faithful men:

They were awake.....

They were watchful....

They knew the sign because they had read and knew the scripture.

They did not hesitate

They had no excuses and no fears...

They followed..."For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

And so these wise men followed a heavenly light that guided them.

(Pause) The same needs to be true of us today

It needs to be true of us and all of mankind.

We need to follow this new heavenly light:

Jesus Christ.

We need to have his light (his word) guide us.

And we need to come and worship Him:

As our creator....as our King....as our Lord

And so there existed many, many years ago and

(pause) still today three types of People:

1. Those who never see the star

They fail to see the light

They fail to see the meaning

They fail to see the truth

2. Those who see the star....but fail to act

They see this new light, this new wonder

But they do nothing with it

They simply ignore the son of God

They ignore the word of God

They do not come to worship him.

3. And then there are those who see the
star and follow it's light!

So I ask you...(Pause) which type of person are you?

(Pause) Do you see the star, do you see the light?

If not, you need not look far.

And if you see it what are you doing about it?

Are you too busy?

Will you leave your flock in the field to follow him?

Do you have that faith to leave your kingdom?

and travel far to worship Jesus? (Pause)

Look-It doesn't matter if you're a king or a shepherd...

And it doesn't matter if you're a child or an adult

We need to see the star

We need to follow the star

We need to walk to Bethlehem

And we need to act!

And we need to worship Jesus!

I pray that may we all see a new star,
and that we all see a new light in the heavens.

And we all follow that light to
worship and Praise God.

Amen