



FROM THE PASTOR

One of my favorite Christmas holiday songs, is not a Christmas carol, but an “Epiphany carol.” It is “The March of the Kings.” I have sung the piece with several choirs and always wished I could sing the bass part, but have had to settle for the tenor part.

*Three wise men were seen at early morn with all their retinue were proudly marching,
Trappings fine their camels did adorn, for they were hastening to the recent born
With gifts of gold brought from far away and valiant warriors to guard their kingly treasure,
With robes of splendor and banners gay, and shields all shining in their bright array.*

I have often wondered about those wise men. What possessed them to come leave their own country with such regal gifts and travel so far to find the infant Jesus? The wise men tell Herod that they had seen a star rising in the heavens which told them of his birth. But the question is still unanswered, why would they leave the comfort of their own homes and travel to a distant land to worship present gifts and *worship* the newborn king?

The stars must have told these sages that this was no ordinary king if they were to *worship* him. Isaiah describes this infant child as “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.” The angel tells Joseph that this infant is Emmanuel or “He saves.” This child is not just a new born king. This child was God’s presence in our world.

So what brought the wise men to travel so far to seek the infant Jesus? It was not a star, nor was it signs in the heavens. It must have been the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit which brought the wise men to the infant Jesus.

That very same Spirit rests upon each and every one of us. At our baptisms we were given the same Spirit. That same Spirit drives us to seek the Lord Jesus. That same Spirit calls us not to give gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; but rather a gift infinitely more precious, the gift of ourselves to the infant Jesus. The odd thing is that when we give the gift of ourselves, we find the blessings the king offers us in return are much greater than what we could ever offer him.

This Epiphany Season may we join the wise men on their journey to the infant Jesus. May we offer him the most precious gift of all – ourselves.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

