

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,  
behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,  
'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"**

*Matthew 2: 1-2*

When the God of the universe came into the world as a baby, He had to be located. This is because the Second Person of the Trinity exchanged an infinite, omnipresent existence for a finite, locally-present existence. This is why the Wise Men needed to follow a star to find Him, and then when they came to the general vicinity of His location, they still needed to inquire as to His specific location. What an amazing sacrifice our God made for us! He came as a baby who could be missed if you didn't know where to look.

People are still missing God. They are looking for God in places where He has not promised to reveal the totality of who He is. Yes, God is in nature. Yes, He can be found in a sunset, or a sunrise, or at the birth of a baby. God is omnipresent. But there is only one place where God reveals the most about Himself – and that is in His Word. That's where we find His promises and His love and His grace and His expectations of us.

As much as some people believe they can find God at the beach or at the end of their fishing pole, God is most completely found in a book entitled "The Holy Bible" and where His Word and Sacraments are being shared with the people of God.

The Wise Men who came to find Jesus after His birth came from a great distance to find Him. They were coming to worship Him. God invites us to come to worship Him from wherever we have been. Actually, God is the One who traveled the greatest distance to find us! He came from heaven, from an eternal place, in order to look for people who were far from Him. The Bible says, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." At a specific time in history, in a particular location on the planet Earth, the Lord of the universe manifested Himself in the body of an infant in order to look for us.

Philippians 2: 6-11 describes this journey: "... though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim