

A Thought for Epiphany 3rd January 2021

Matthew 2: 1-12

2021 a new year; we have no knowledge of what this year will bring. Every now and then, we glimpse God clearly and realise how much God loves and cares about us.

Today, Epiphany, we hear of the Magi. Legend has changed our perception of this event; from twelve men to three, from wise men to kings and even their names and personal descriptions have been assumed. All we know from the Bible is they were Magi meaning they were skilled in many things and held as men of holiness and wisdom.



Here in Matthew's gospel written for the Jewish reader he explains that Jesus is not just for Jews; Jesus is to be worshipped by Gentiles too.

God actively brought this about. These Magi were from a distant place and God inspired them by a star to find Jesus (their knowledge of a new star implied a new king was born). So they came to find 'the king of the Jews' and by God's hand, the star led them to Jesus but not directly.

They first went to Jerusalem, to the palace as they assumed the new king would be born there and so set in progress Herod's actions bringing pain for families. At the palace they were told that the prophet Micah indicated the birth place was Bethlehem, so they continued their journey, saw the star and followed it to where Jesus was. It was not Christmas but later so they came to a house where the child Jesus lived with his family. They gave him gifts fit for a king, each had a future meaning, gold for a king, frankincense for a priest and myrrh for death.

Legend has changed the details but the message is still clear, Gentiles, non Jews were drawn to Jesus, worshipping him at the beginning of his life showing the whole world that Jesus was King of all the world. Still today anyone and everyone can come to him, find his peace, love and joy. Jesus a baby born in a messy place, a child who through Joseph's trust in God escaped death at an early age became the only way we can have a relationship with God. And with all that happened in Jesus' life He understands our hopes and fears.

I pray that this year you find how precious you are to God, how much He loves you and that He has a plan in which you have a part.

May you rest in the light, reminded that darkness is pushed back by the sun's rays. May you be given the gift of faith as you hear a whispered voice of Hope refreshing your soul. May you see God's love at work in the everyday moments of your life. God Bless You!

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