

Title: The Wonder of Wander: All I need is a little bit of hope

Text: Matthew 2:1-10

Target: The hope that led the wise men is proof that those who seek Jesus, will find Him.

The Problem: Our hope is handcuffed to what's happening.

Because of where their hope was, the wise men were:

1. **Hopeful in spite of the cost: *The journey***

- a. "...wise men from the east came to Jerusalem." (Vs.1a)
- b. "The East" = Ancient Persia. A 700–800-mile journey from Ancient Persia to Jerusalem.

Discussion Question: What would compel someone that doesn't know God's word, is either non-religious or anti-religious, and clearly without material need, forsake everything to find Jesus? What compelled you to do the same thing? Do you see any commonalities?

1. **Hopeful in spite of the pressure: *The king***

- a. "When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled..." (Vs.3)
- b. "Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared." (Vs.7)

Discussion Question: Jesus came to rule and reign in the hearts of men. He came to be redeemer and restorer, to give abundant life no matter the circumstances. But the Jews wanted a military leader that would be a national military leader to free them from the oppression of the Romans. Herod wanted to remain the appointed king/leader of the Jews to maintain a wealthy and comfortable lifestyle. The Romans, as the most powerful nation in the world, would not stand for insurrection. So, this coming of Jesus as a baby born as King of the Jews threatened the desires of the Jews, Herod, and the Romans. In what ways are we like these three? How has the coming of Jesus threatened our reign and rule over our own lives?

3. **Hopeful in spite of the conventional provision: *The star***

- a. "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose." (Vs.2b)
- b. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." (Vs.10)

Old Testament reference: Numbers 24:17 & Daniel 9:25-27.

Discussion Question: The Jewish scholars knew of the promised Messiah. They knew of the approximate time and place of his birth. Yet, they did nothing to go and find the proclaimed messiah when they heard about him. The magi had only a star in the sky and they immediately went to follow the star. Perhaps they had access to records or testimony of prophecies from the time of Jewish exile in their countries. However, only one group passionately pursued Jesus forsaking all else to find the one true king. How much are you and I willing to be inconvenienced to worship the King of Kings? In light of our recent Revelation study, do you need to be reminded of the promise of His coming?

Take Away: When your hope is handcuffed to **the promise** you can endure anything.