

Title: Are We There Yet? - Matthew 2 1-12

Read:

¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."
³⁻⁴ When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" ⁵⁻⁶ They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel." ⁷⁻⁸ Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship." ⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. ¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Think:

The Kings went on a massive road trip to find the Son of God because they knew that he was worthy of their worship. They didn't journey to worship a film star, they didn't journey to worship a football player, they journeyed to worship their Saviour. They must have been thankful when they had come to the end of that massive journey. But had they? Was their journey at the end when they found Jesus, or had it just begun? How was your journey to find Jesus? Did you search long and hard and eventually find Jesus after much struggle. Did a friend take you on a journey and show you the way to find Jesus? Did you have a quick journey and find Jesus almost immediately? Whatever your journey to find Jesus was like, I bet that like the Kings, when you reached the end you too were thankful that your journey was over and you had found your Saviour. But also just like the Kings when you found Jesus, that was not the end of the Journey. Like the Kings when you found Jesus you had the rest of your life to journey on through. Because if finding Jesus is the end of your Journey then you have missed the point. Finding Jesus changes the direction you're journeying in. Finding Jesus has to effect what happens next or the journey to find him wasn't worth the effort. But we know that the journey to find Jesus is worth the effort because he is the Son of God who takes away all the rubbish from our lives so that we can party forever in Heaven. He is worthy of our worship.

Pray:

Father you are worthy to be worshiped and I thank you for all that you have do and will do for me. Amen.

Action:

We don't do this that often and maybe not often enough, so let's worship our God now. Thank God right now for ten things that you think are cool about him. Bye.