

# The Gospel According to Matthew pt 5

(Irresistible Drawing Grace)

Read Matt. 2:1-2

The first of our considerations of this text is the drawing power of the most High, The Lord of all creation causing some men, (pause here for a moment, we do not know how many there were, the Word does not tell us, man in his imagination has implemented their understanding and declared it to be three, But God has not revealed the number to us through His word, so let us ever keep a mind to Look to His word for our truths, without our Fleshly knowledge interfering), He caused some men to search Him out to worship Him!

What a blessed thing to ponder as I am not of the Jewish blood therefore being a Gentile, as these men from the east of Jerusalem were Gentiles, there is hope for us Gentiles as well, Hope for a Savior, Hope for a King who is truth! (Joh 14:6) **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

He chose some men from the east who were not of Jewish blood, and who were “Mago-s”, the word here in our text is translated “Wise” but it’s only translated “wise” here in Matt. where it is used three times referring to these men from the east. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, this word “Mago-s” is used twice, describing one man and not in a good way; (Read Acts 13:5-10).

Folks there is one thing we know for sure from this; **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Rom 5:12), or as we read in; (Rom 3:23) **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;** these men from the east were sinners, who were brought by irresistible Grace to seek and find the one true God-Jesus the Christ!

The Lord's word tells us; (Rom 9:15-16) **For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.**

This time we are looking at was (as some commentators have said) about two years after the Birth of Christ in that manger, in Bethlehem, and in that time God has only given us two times, where others have come seeking the Lord!

Luke 2:8-20                      what drew these men unto Him?

Luke 2:21-38                      how did this man Simion come?

This is the irresistible Gracious Work of God, only with a new heart, a new spirit will one seek to worship God in truth!

(Joh 4:23-24) **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.**

For nearly two whole years, we are not told of anyone else taking notice of the fact that God had come into the world in human flesh! could it be no one in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, or all of Judea believed the messages Simeon and Anna had declared or the word of Joseph and Mary concerning the Christ of God?

And yet here come men from the east, gentiles from the orient, the word "wise" means "a *Magian*, that is, Oriental *scientist*; by implication a *magician*: - sorcerer", The history of these wise men and their visit to our Savior, like everything else in Holy Scripture, is recorded for our learning and our comfort and hope as we seek to glorify our God in this world;

**(Rom 15:4) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

These men were chosen, of all that lived to the east of Israel, these came to worship!

Out of all that live in north Highlands Ca. John and Kathy were called with irresistible Grace, to come and worship the True and Living God!

Many spend lip-service to a god of their imagination, but few are called from that darkness we all so much loved, called to Worship Him!

**(Mar 7:6) He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.**

**(Mat 7:13-14) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

Folks salvation is of the Lord, true worship is of the Lord, God must overrule the old heart of men, He must circumcise, remove the stoney heart we all come into this world with, he must give life where there was nothing but death, we must be born again, and that's the works of the Spirit of God

**(2Co 4:6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

We also see in this record Of Christ's birth, our Savior has many "**hidden ones**" (as spoken of in Psa 83:3) in the earth. We sometimes foolishly imagine that we know all that God is doing in the world and that we either know of or know about all His people in the world. But nothing could be more absurd and further from the truth.

Sinners, like these wise men, are sometimes born of God in the dark places of the earth and made wise unto salvation. They are the Lord's "**hidden ones**" They know Christ, and Christ knows them, and nothing else matters!

Let us never imagine that God has left Himself without a witness anywhere (Rom 11:1-5) **I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**

We must never attempt to measure the length and breadth of God's kingdom by our own yardstick. And we must never imagine that God is not working because we do not see him work, or that our labor is in vain because we do not see its fruit;

**(1Co 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord;**

**(Isa 55:11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

We can also see from this passage that as the scriptures constantly teach, that the least likely are often the most likely objects of God's saving grace. These men were "Mago-s" from the east of Jerusalem, pagan astrologers, soothsayers, sorcerers, magicians, wizards, and fortunetellers.

I tell you with authority, John Reeves would have been seen as the "Most unlikely to believe God"

“But God” who is rich in mercy, chooses the most unlikely! The adulterers, the fornicators, the murderers, the sinners, to be merciful too!

**(Eph 2:1-3) And you who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

We are not told who these men were, or where they lived, or how they learned of Christ, only that they were from the east. Perhaps they had learned to expect Christ from the ten tribes who were once carried away into captivity. Maybe some prophet had passed through their land expounding the words of Isaiah, or Daniel, or David. We simply do not know. But, as Matthew Poole wrote, *“These were the first fruits of the Gentiles owning Christ as King of the Jews, whilst he came among his own, and they received him not; nor do I know anything more worthy of our observation concerning them”*.

God often passes by those who have the greatest privileges and opportunities, and saves those who seem to be beyond the reach of mercy; **“And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian”** (Luk 4:25-27).

We would have thought the scribes and Pharisees, those men so learned in the facts of Scripture and religion, would have been the first to go down to Bethlehem as soon as the Savior’s birth was rumored; but it was not so (Joh 1:11) **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

It is a sad fact, but a fact often confirmed by experience, that the hardest people on earth to reach with the gospel are gospel hardened rebels (2Co 2:14-16) **Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?**

Those who neglect the privileges and opportunities set before them to hear the gospel and learn of God court reprobation and judgment, read with me; (Pro 1:23-33).

God graciously saves those who are thought by men to be the least likely candidates for mercy;

(1Sa 16:1-12)

(1Co 1:26-30).

He passed by self-righteous Pharisees and self-complacent scribes, and saved some pagan magicians from a far eastern land.

**Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

**Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

**Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**

**Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

**Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**