

IT'S WORTH THE SEARCH.

Irony: Those who knew the most cared the least.

Q: How many Wise Men were there?

A: The Bible doesn't say.

Q: Who were the Wise Men?

A: The Bible doesn't say.

"Tradition even names them: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. But tradition is not necessarily fact. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were thought by ancient commentators to show recognition of Jesus as King, Son of God, and one destined to die, respectively."¹

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

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,² 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."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Action points

- 1) God often **interrupts** our lives to steer us towards Jesus.
- 2) Don't let apathetic people **stifle** your passion.
- 3) See Jesus as **worthy** of your greatest and most costly gifts.

¹ C. F. Pfeiffer, & E. F. Harrison, E. F. eds., *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962), in *Logos Library System*.