

## **The Bethlehem Herald: Wavering**

Matthew 2:1-12

**1** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

**2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

**4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

**5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

**8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

**10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

**11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### **What do we know about these Magi?**

- men
- highly educated
- from the East
- travelled far
- travel took time
- travel was by camel
- brought valuable gifts

- 1st stop was Jerusalem, 2nd stop was Bethlehem
- their stop in Jerusalem hit the headlines
- had a divine assignment
- WAVERED

Waver = to be undecided between 2 opinions or courses of action  
 = to become unsteady, hesitating  
 = irresolute, uncertain

From the very beginning in Gen 3:1: **“Did God really say”**  
 THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY TEMPTATION

**Tonight, in what area of your life are you dealing with wavering?  
 In what area of your life is temptation causing you to waver?**

We waver in both sins of omission and commission....

**Are you wavering in NOT doing the things you should?** Are there things that you know God has asked of you, things He requires of us as His followers that you are stubbornly refusing to do? Somehow giving yourself a pass on doing what God has said?

**Are you wavering in DOING things that you should not do?** Are there things that you know God does not approve of, are not His best for your life that you continue to participate in? Are there things you are doing that are not pleasing to our Heavenly Father yet you continue doing it?

**Luke 4** - Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and overcame EVERY temptation! He won!

**1 Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is **common to mankind**. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**Mt. 26:31** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**The Magi, although from a different time and culture than us, they were just like us in their humanity, their vulnerability to temptation and their propensity to waver, yet we see in them an amazing example of ways in which they did not waver. They stayed true to their God given assignment, their divine purpose, their contribution to the part of the story God is writing!**

**1. Money & resources**

- trip cost them greatly - preparations and necessary supplies needed for a trip of this duration and distance and the value of the gifts they brought; in today's economy, somewhere between \$1-4 million

**WHAT HAS GOD ASKED OF YOU WITH YOUR FINANCES AND YOUR RESOURCES; ARE YOU WAVERING WITH HOW YOU STEWARD YOUR MONEY?**

**2. Time & effort**

- travelled by camel over 500 miles, thru desert terrain  
- dangerous, robbers, disease - no 911, no Patient First  
- most likely away from their families - missed out on meaningful moments  
- the comforts of home, had to bring with them everything they needed for whatever could possibly happen  
- the trip took anywhere from 4 months to 2 years....ONE WAY!

**WHAT HAS GOD ASKED OF YOU THAT YOU HAVE DEEMED "TOO MUCH"?**

**3. Power & prestige**

- the Magi's decision not to report back to Herod was monumental  
- could have been rewarded greatly; could have made them friends with the one of the greatest world powers of that time  
- they "were warned in a dream not to return"....imagine that conversation?!  
- Herod was an insecure, paranoid maniac...he had already killed a couple of wives and several of his sons - this decision was not made lightly  
- they knew making Herod mad could cost them and the people under his rule greatly....it is likely that their decision to not report back to Herod caused his decree that every male child under the age of 2 would be slaughtered

**WHAT HAS GOD ASKED YOU TO DO OR NOT DO...WHAT OBEDIENCE DO YOU NEED TO ACT ON IN THE FACE OF POWER AND POPULARITY?**

**Closing:**

Tonight, in what area of your life are you dealing with wavering? In what area of your life is temptation causing you to waver?

We can resist temptation because Jesus paid the ultimate price for complete victory over sin!

**1 Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.