



GPS for the week of January 3, 2021: Matthew 2:1-12

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² 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.”

Sunday, January 3:

Action: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions to Ponder: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? Do you see that there are important things continuing to happen even after Jesus was born? Can you see how all the pieces are fitting together to complete this story of Jesus?

Prayer: Lord God, this is a reminder of Your perfect plan for the birth of Your Son. You had everything figured out ahead of time so that it would all come together for Your good. Remind me of this especially in this New Year, that all Your plans work together for good. May I be at peace as we walk through this New Year and may I see You and sense Your presence as my life journey continues with You.

Monday, January 4:

Action: Read Matthew 2:1-2: “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² 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.’

Questions to Ponder: Have you ever wondered how the Magi knew that this particular star stood for the birth of the King of the Jews? Do you find it interesting that they are asking around about this event as if everyone knew about it? Do you think they were shocked that no one knew about it? Isn’t that sometimes the case when we ask others about the birth of Jesus? How do you handle this? Won’t you be a person willing to tell others about the birth of Jesus?

Prayer: Jesus, it is interesting to me that the Magi would come all that way to find the one born King of the Jews. In their excitement, they are asking others about the event but not everyone knew what was going on. Help me to be persistent in telling others what Your birth is all about.

Tuesday, January 5:

Action: Read Matthew 2:3-4: “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.”

Questions to Ponder: Can you imagine what King Herod’s response to the Magi asking the question was, that all of Jerusalem heard about it too? Can you see that King Herod finally went to the Jews to find out what they knew? Are you the kind of person who asks questions when you don’t understand what God is doing?

Prayer: Lord, I don't always ask questions when I am trying to find out about You. Help me to be open to asking others about You and not hold back from finding out about You and what You have done. Let me be open to what Your word is saying and ask others when I don't completely understand.

Wednesday, January 6:

Action: Read Matthew 2:5-6: "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.'"

Questions to Ponder: Did you know that the Jews quoted Micah to Herod? Do you find it interesting that even though they knew the answer to Herod's question, they did not personally go to see the baby? Do we find ourselves in that position where we know the answer for another about what they should be doing, but we don't listen to the advice we give to others? Is this something that should change in your life?

Prayer: Lord, I am sorry that I may know what Your word says but don't always take it to heart or don't obey it. Help me in this New Year to be better at studying Your word and doing what it says. When I struggle help me to be reminded of what You have done and what You are doing.

Thursday, January 7:

Action: Read Matthew 2:7-8: "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.'"

Questions to Ponder: Doesn't it make you suspicious when you hear "called the Magi secretly"? Is it surprising that we do not read about what the Magi thought about all of this? Do you see it did not matter whether they knew what Herod was doing but were only focused on finding the child? How focused are we when we need to find Jesus in our midst?

Prayer: Jesus, I want to be more focused on seeking after You than I sometimes am now. I know that I focus on You I always feel better about myself and the situations I find myself in. Remind me daily to seek You out before I even begin my day.

Friday, January 8:

Action: Read Matthew 2:9-10: "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."

Questions to Ponder: Don't you think it is a supernatural phenomenon the way the star guided them? Doesn't it make you more aware of the power of God in this story? Do you believe in the power of God in your story? If so, doesn't it make you feel more confident that God can do anything in and around your life?

Prayer: Lord God, open my eyes and ears to the Your power in and around my life. I want to be constantly aware of Your presence and all that You are doing. I want to be amazed by You so that I can tell others all that You are doing.

Saturday, January 9:

Action: Read Matthew 2:11-12: "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."

Questions to Ponder: Do you see how much these two verses contain? How do you react when you feel like you are in the presence of Jesus? Do you take it for granted or do you stop and bow down and worship Him? What gifts do you present when you are in His presence? How would you feel about a dream telling you what to do? Do you desire for your to change on how you respond to the presence of Jesus?

Prayer: Lord I want to receive dreams when I am struggling with what to do Help me to be more in tune with Your presence so that I too can come and bow down and Worship You and also give you the gifts You desire from me. Continue to draw me closer to You so that I can be more devoted to You.