

Dealing with Disappointment

Matthew 2:1-12

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 26th AM

Each of the Gospels focus on a different aspect of Jesus.

Matthew Presents Jesus as the King of the Jews.

Luke, As the Son of Man come to save all.

Mark, As the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. (Mk 8:31)

and **John**, As the Son of God. (John 1; 20:31)

While Jesus is God's "Christmas Gift" to us (Jn 3:16) It was the Magi that brought the first Christmas Gifts to God! (Mt 2:1-12)

They traveled with great expectations in search of the King; Guided by a seeking heart and a bright star. Near Jerusalem, the star seemed to fade. (Maybe they just stopped looking for it!)

God's light seems to fade when we assume we "know the way" and focus instead on our own "light". (Is. 50:10-11) This can easily lead to "Dangerous Detours!" (2 Cor 5:7)

After their "Detour", they were directed (by the scriptures) to Bethlehem. (Mt 2:4-8)

Not only was their journey plagued with Detours, but also with some disappointments!

- 1) The Christ had been born in a "barn".
- 2) They were late.
- 3) Their mistakes endangered the child!

What was true of them is often our experience. (1 Cor 10:1)

We'll all face times when we learn that our "stars" somehow lead us to some "stables".

What we do in such times of disappointment Reveals much about us and our future!

Will we get "Better" (Wiser) or "Bitter"? (Withered) Heb. 12:15

What Is It That Enables Wise Men / Women To Turn The Disappointments Of Life Into Developing (Stepping) Stones?

1. THEY LOOK FOR DEITY IN THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF LIFE.

'when they found the young child they worshipped him' vs. 11

A. This is why they came in the first place! Mt. 2:2 "we ... and are come to worship him."

B. All that glitters isn't gold, and all that's gold doesn't glitter.

- 1) Joseph Gen 50:20 *"ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good,"*
- 2) Job 23:14 *"he performeth the thing that is appointed for me:"*
- 3) David Wrote Psalm 23 while hiding from Absalom!

It was at Ziklag that *'David encouraged himself in the LORD'* 1 Sam. 30:6 (See Ps. 119:71)

2. THEY DON'T DIMINISH THEIR DEVOTION.

'they opened their treasures

and presented unto him gifts' vs 11

A. There's A Tendency In Our Disappointments Hold Back On God.

- 1) It's when the situation turns bad that we need To give our best.

The only solution for Entropy is more Energy!

- 2) It's during the disappointment that we must determine to go the extra mile. (Mt. 5:41)

B. Their Gifts Seemed Inappropriate For The Situation.

- 1) They had both a practical and a prophetic significance.

a) Practical: Joseph and Mary would need to flee to Egypt and live for a few years.

b) Prophetic: Gold (For Royalty) Frankincense (for Deity) Myrrh (For Suffering)

3. LET GOD **DEVELOP** YOU THROUGH THE DISAPPOINTMENT

"they departed another way." vs. 12 Rom. 8:28

A. Disappointments are tools God often uses to Develop us. (Ro. 8:22-29)

1 Peter 1:7 *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"* (Ro. 5:3-5 and 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

1) This is the common experience of God's people.

- a) Joseph in Prison (Gen. 37-50)
- b) Moses on the back side of the desert (Ex. 2-4)
- c) Elijah during the famine. (1 Kings 17)
- d) David Fleeing from King Saul. (1 Sam. 19-30)
- e) Even Jesus. Heb. 5:8 (Also Heb. 12:1-3)

Conclusion:

- 1) It's easy to get detoured from God's direction
when we stop looking for Him to lead us. (Pr 3:5-7)
- 2) When we see God as Santa, we'll only recognize and respond to him
in the good times of life. (Job 2:10)
- 3) When we recognize He has greater purposes than our enjoyment,
we can begin to recognize His hand in every event. (Pr. 3:5,6)
- 4) God seeks to Transform us through our Troubles
by keeping our focus on Him! (2 Cor. 3:18)
- 5) Each journey of Faith prepares us for the Next! Ro 1:17 *"the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*
- 6) Satan seeks to sidetrack us in our disappointments,
robbing us of the Lessons/Blessings God intends. (Jn 10:10)

Application:

In the face of Detours and Disappointments Will you purpose to be a Wise Man/Woman who:

- 1. Looks For Deity In The Disappointments? Mt. 2:11 *"they worshipped him!"*
- 2. Refuses to diminish your devotion? Vs 11 *"Presented him gifts"*
- 3. Allows God to Develop You Through The Disappointment?
vs 12 *"they departed another way."* (See also Job 23:10)



Heb. 10:36 *"ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."*