

A CALL TO FOLLOW THE STAR (MATTHEW

2:2-12)

For a long time people used compasses to find direction. A Compass is an instrument which always directs its pointer or magnetic needle toward the magnetic North. The user determines the extent or scope within which to limit his destination. Sometimes we speak of a moral compass which implies a person's values; what to do or not do in the light of certain set values.

These days there are many means of finding direction .You may have seen a commercial by some phone company which says; *Can you hear me?* or *Can you hear me now?* The main point of the commercial is being able to listen and hear the message clearly. Phones are there to help us communicate. If we can't hear then we can't follow the speaker's directions. Such a device would be useless. Listening to the message, hearing the message, and responding to the message is goal to any form of communication.

Phones can do even more. We can find direction by employing the GPS (Global Positioning System) in cell-phones or in car devices.

But God does not communicate with us by phone. God communicates thru dreams, visions, angels, and even celestial luminaries like stars. In the Gospel story, the angel of the Lord appeared to the Wisemen (Magi) and directed them to follow the Star. They saw Star from afar and they read the message conveyed by it. The Star was like their GPS device. The guidelines by the Angel were for them to follow the Star. That all the wisemen needed.

Follow is never easy, let alone following the Star. Clouds can cover the Star.

Even following Jesus, our Savior and trusting in Him is not an easy thing either.

Deep inside each one of us is the desire to explore or to venture the unknown.

There is always a tendency to try something new in each one of us; A call of the wild, the spirit of discovery which we don't always resist just for the fun of it.

There is always a thrill in trying something new---someday we end up in a spirit of recklessness.

The Magi didn't have to stop to ask for direction. They had the Star to follow from the east which was leading them to Bethlehem. vv. 2,7,9,10.

We must assume that the Star was different from other stars because the Magi could distinguish it from others. Probably it gave light day and night. While the voice from within them kept telling them to, *“follow the star.”* Probably they got tired by the sheer monotony of the voice and shut it off. So they asked the natives, *Where is the He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw a star in the east and have come to worship Him? (2:2).*

What do you do when you lose a sense of direction? What do you do when you lose sight of the Star? What do you do when you lose faith? What do you do when you lose a sense of moral compass? What do you do when you make a wrong turn? What do you do when you no longer hear the voice speaking to you from within your conscience to guide you?

They Wise men tried something different; they asked the natives for direction. Do you know that we lose the sense of smell after we get used to the smell?

The Magi followed the directions of a false star, Herod, who filled up the vacuum created by lack of the guiding Star. Any spiritual vacuum created by lack of guidance will quickly be filled by a false star, a demon, a human representative of the devil. When you lose your Star something else occupies the vacuum and you get lost. When we lose our moral compass we lose ourselves and our opportunities. Don't lose your star, don't lose your wisdom. Don't lose your moral compass. Losing both your star and your moral compass is self-destruction.

Out of and panic fear of losing his throne, Herod felt challenged and secretly planned to destroy the child. Fear and panic causes some to take unnecessary measures even if it were untrue rumor spreading around. Herod's paranoia led him to kill all infants under two thus, fulfilling the prophecy by Jeremiah which says, *“Rachel is weeping for her children who are no more”*

How times have we heard rumors about us or something going to happen without proof of it and panicked? How many times do we make conclusions or seek counsel just because we have heard a rumor that troubles us?

Herod lied to the wise men to get them to return to him to give him the whereabouts of the new born King so that he might kill him. For some people, the end justifies the means. No conscience at play at all. For

some crooks, death of innocents is nothing but collaterals. Be careful how your desire to retain your status quo can corrupt you.

Friends when we fall, we must strive to rise again. We must find out where we went wrong. we must do a self-reexamination of ourselves. We must repair what is broken.

The text says, "After leaving they went their way ... and the star guided them until it came and stood over the place where the child was." Yes, the supernatural sign re-appeared when they put their minds back to God. Wisdom is important even in matters of faith. Sometimes we need to come back to the basics, ignore Herod, ignore the rumor, ignore the power of persuasion that comes with it, and seek God's guidance, seek God's star.

Human means and human wits have their limitation. God always intervenes when our human abilities come to a standstill. God will always accomplish His will no matter what. After we done all we can, we must stand in faith and trust God to do what we cannot do. Seek the Lord while He is near. *And when they came to the house, they saw the young child with His mother Mary and fell down and worshipped him, and they opened their treasures, they presented him with gifts; gold frankincense and myrrh.* The best gift we can give back to the Lord is to worship him, to glorify his name and to follow his guidance, the Star.

If you do so it will bring you to God's desired destiny for you. Amen.