

## **The Wise Men Who Missed It**

Matthew 2:1-6

### **A. Christmas is Past**

1. Past in our experience this year.
2. Past in the scene before us in the Bible.

### **B. We Are All Familiar with the Wise Men**

1. They came from the East, following the star, bringing their gifts.
2. Going first to Jerusalem and called before King Herod.

### **C. The Mystery Of The Wise Men And Their Mission**

1. We don't know exactly where they came from (Babylon?) or how many came.
2. We don't know exactly when they arrived—maybe up to two years later (2:16).
3. We don't know how they knew the star signalled the birth of Christ.

### **D. Some Things We Do Know**

1. They were wise men, and wise men still seek the Saviour.
2. Those who truly seek Him find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).
3. The wise men didn't arrive at the stable, as often portrayed.
4. They found Jesus in a house (Matthew 2:11).

### **E. But There Is a Group of Wise Men Who Did Not Go to Bethlehem**

1. Herod called the priests and scribes to advise him about the birth of the King.
2. They knew the location was "In Bethlehem of Judea" (v. 5).
3. They did not believe the Lord had come and thereby missed the incarnation.
4. They doubted Christ's deity all their lives.
5. They would be thorns in His side, and help place thorns on His brow.
6. Many today have similar attitudes toward Jesus.
7. Some see Jesus as a good man, a great teacher, or a prophet.
8. But stop short of salvation (Acts 16:31).

### **F. They Knew the Scriptures But Did Not Find the Saviour (v. 6)**

1. They immediately went to Scripture to answer Herod's question.
2. They were acquainted with Micah 5:2 but didn't apply it.
3. Knowing the Bible alone doesn't save; you must find and follow the Saviour.

**G. They Knew Christ Would Rule But Would Not Let Him Rule Them (v. 6)**

1. v6 mentions a Governor to rule Israel.
2. Prophecy was unfolding before them, but they didn't act.
3. Some today see prophecy fulfilled but don't respond.

**H. Why Didn't These Other Wise Men Hurry to Bethlehem?**

1. They may have feared losing favour with Herod.
2. They may have quickly fallen back into routines.
3. They may have thought the risk too great if the rumour was false.

**I. Some Wise Men Risk Everything to Find the Saviour**

1. The Wise Men travelled far to find Jesus, devoting time and effort.
2. They worshipped Him and presented gifts of
  - a. gold (royalty),
  - b. frankincense (priestly work),
  - c. myrrh (suffering).

**J. God Warns and Directs**

1. The Wise Men were warned in a dream to avoid Herod.
2. Joseph was warned to flee to Egypt with Jesus.
3. God's warnings direct us to His purposes.

**K. Have You Experienced a Warning from God?**

1. Consider if changes are needed in your life to align with His will.
2. Are you willing to let Him change your life's direction?