

THEY WENT HOME ANOTHER WAY

TEXT: (Matthew 2:1-12, KJV)

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ³ When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. ⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, ⁶ And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. ⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. ¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Wise Men Went Home Another Way

1. "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17, KJV).
2. "He replied, 'Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!'" (John 9:25, NIV).

I. LEPER (PHYSICAL)

A. He Worshiped Jesus

1. "A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean'" (Mark 1:40, NIV).

B. Jesus Healed Him

1. "Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured" (Mark 1:41-42, NIV).

II. DEMONIAK (MENTAL)

A. A Man in Distress

1. "Many times [the demon] had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places" (Luke 8:29, NIV).

B. All Three Worlds Understood

1. "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11, NIV).
2. "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18, NIV).

3. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18, NIV).

C. The Man Was Delivered—He Was Healed

1. "And the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind" (Luke 8:35, NIV).
2. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7, KJV).

III. ADULTEROUS WOMAN (SIN)

A. The Cruel Accusers

1. "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him" (John 8:3-6, NIV).
2. "The Accuser of our brothers has been thrown down from heaven onto earth—he accused them day and night before our God" (Revelation 12:10, MSG).

B. A Pardon

1. "But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

'No one, sir,' she said.

'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared" (John 8:6-11, NIV).

C. She Went Home Another Way

1. "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11, KJV).
2. "I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me" (Hosea 6:6, TLB).
3. "I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think" (Romans 12:1-2, TLB).