



Follow the Star!

Part II; December 13, 2009

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way... Matthew 2:1-9 (NIV)

So Close, Yet So Far Away!

When does that happen for us?

When we limit ourselves to _____
rather than _____.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. – Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

When we fill our _____ without opening our _____!

*The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."
– Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)*

God isn't seeking to inform us, He wants to transform us!

When we lose our sense of _____.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you." – Matthew 9:27-29 (NIV)

When we allow ourselves to become _____.

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
– Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)*

The ongoing tragedy of Christmas is that sometimes the ones who should experience it BEST miss it altogether.