



January 4 – We Keep Seeking

What do you seek after? Who do you seek to follow? The magi traveled far seeking Jesus. Joseph and Mary traveled far seeking to keep Jesus and their family safe. As we gather today, in our jammies/comfy clothes we know we are wrapped in Jesus' love and are safe and secure. So, who and what should we seek? Will we seek a comfy life or life with Jesus? Because they are not necessarily the same thing!

Scripture:

Isaiah 60:1-5

"Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. ² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. ³ All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. ⁴ "Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. ⁵ Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy,

Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men^[a] from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities^[c] of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" ⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Questions:

- What are you seeking these days? Safety? Comfort? Fame? Fortune? Be honest with yourself – how does what or who you seek color your whole life?
- What might it look like if you were to decide to seek Jesus more this year? What would you need?
- What about others? Do you seek to make sure others are safe? Have what they need? How might your life change if you were to embrace this call on our lives?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Matthew 6:33

Tuesday: Psalm 27:4

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 22:19

Thursday: Acts 17:27

Friday: Hebrews 11:1