

November 27, 2005
First Sunday of Advent
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Where can we find... the newborn King?” - "In Us"
Matt 2:2 (THE MESSAGE)

Matt 2:1-2 NLT

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him."

Matt 2:2 THE MESSAGE says, "Where can we find ...the newborn King ...?"

The wise men saw His star and were searching for Jesus, the newborn King, so they could worship Him. Herod called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked them, "Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?" When he was told that it was Bethlehem, Herod told the wise men, "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!" (Matt 2:8 NLT). Herod sent them to search carefully for Jesus, but he had no desire to go and do the searching for himself. Furthermore, his motive for finding this newborn King was to have him killed not to worship Him as he claimed.

But the wise men were sincere in their desire to find the Messiah and to worship Him. They said they saw His star. In Num 24:17 (NLT) God said, "A star will rise from Jacob..." Somehow, they knew that this star was significant, that it announced the coming of the Messiah, a King. Even the religious leaders who knew the Holy Scriptures did not go looking for Him. Yet, these men from faraway places asked, "Where can we find ...the newborn King ...?"

Many people today want to find an answer to the questions of life. Where do we find life with meaning and purpose? Many today seek a messiah (something or someone to worship).

Christmas time is a time for searching. We search for bargains; We search for the right gift for that special person; we search for a specific gift that someone has asked for (what is on your children's Christmas list this year? What is the hot item this year? In the past it was the Cabbage Patch Doll, or one year it was Tickle Me Elmo. This year it will probably be X-Box going for \$300 - \$400, a little more expensive than Elmo!). We search for the right gift.

We also like to search for the best decorations; we search in our neighborhoods, at the mall, and for our own homes.

We search for the best party. We love to be with family and friends and exchange gifts.

But the question is, where do we find Jesus? Where do we find Him even long after the Christmas season has come and gone? That's what's really important, isn't it? The holiday can come and go and not have any lasting effect on our life...except, maybe to leave us a little depressed and very tired. Have we lost sight of the whole reason for the season?

Religious people have a tendency to take Jesus for granted, like the religious people 2000 years ago who paid no attention to the star announcing the birth of the Messiah. You may not find Jesus in the religious programs of the season.

Non-believers want to know where Jesus is, but only to stop Him from being acknowledged, like Herod (I believe they call it separation of church and state). Jesus can't be found in the programs at your child's school or at the mall or on government property.

But there are some wise people who ask, "Where can we find ...the newborn King ...?" Where can we find Jesus? That we may worship Him. "No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."

This year, during Advent, we want to answer the question, "Where can we find ...the newborn King ...?"

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?"

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

Well, I'm happy the pastor found Jesus...in a little boy's wagon, but where do we find Him:

1. The first place we find Jesus is *in the Bible* and in what it has to say about Him.

In John 5 (see v18) Jesus had spoken of God as his Father, thereby making Himself equal with God. The religious leaders were not happy about that. In John 5:39, Jesus said to

those religious leaders, "You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

The Scriptures (the Bible) is where we first hear of Jesus. If you want to find Jesus, read the Bible. The Bible tells us the story of Jesus. (e.g.) When Herod wanted to know (Matt 2:4 NLT) "Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?" The religious leaders told him that in their Scriptures it was written He would be born in Bethlehem. If you want more knowledge about Jesus you need to read and study the Bible. If you don't have a Bible we will be glad to give you one. If you do have a Bible it will do you no good...unless you open it and read it. The Bible not only tells us about Jesus, it tells us that Jesus is God the Son, and eternal life comes through Him. We need to do more than know about Jesus from the Bible. We must know Him. When we come to know Him, Jesus is found in us. The answer to the question , "Where do we find the Newborn King?" is...

2. You find Him *in you* by grace through repentance and faith

a. Jesus in you starts and ends by grace.

Grace is God's gift or favor, undeserved by those who benefit from it. Finding and receiving Jesus is initiated by God. It is a gift of God. You don't first seek God He first seeks you. The wise men would not have sought Jesus if God did not first send the star. People still would not seek God if God did not first reveal Himself to them (best revelation is in the Bible). God reveals Himself to us and gives us the desire to seek Him. He draws us to Himself. We would not seek God on our own if it were not for God's grace.

When we seek Him we will find Him if we seek Him with all our heart. He is not far from any of us.

b. When we believe Jesus is the Savior and we repent of our sins we find God. Jesus comes to live in us by His Holy Spirit.

This was the message Jesus gave when He started preaching (Mark 1:15 NIV) "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news !"

When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost he had a similar message: (Acts 2:38-39 NLT) Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God (that's repentance), and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Like Paul said (Gal 3:2 NLT) the "Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ."

When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and believe He does; when we accept Jesus as the Savior of the world and as our personal Savior He comes into our lives. He gives us the Holy Spirit and we find Jesus... living in us as a gift of God thru our faith.

“Now, (as it says in 2 Cor 3:17 NLT) the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom.”

When we receive Him we are given freedom. We are free from sin and free to live for God. (1 Cor 6:19-20 NIV) “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit , who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

You find Jesus in you **by grace through repentance and faith; giving you freedom to live a holy life - obeying God.**

3. In Living a Holy Life

(1 John 2:5-6 NLT) “But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.”

Those who have Christ in them will live as Christ lived, that means obeying God’s Word (Bible).

Jesus said (John 14:15-16, 20 NLT), "If you love me , obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you... I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Not only is Jesus in us, but others will see Jesus in us as we live a holy life.

Where do we find Jesus? The Bible tells us. We find Him in us by the Grace of God, through Repentance and faith, which frees us to live as we ought.