

The Long Road Toward Obedience

Matthew 2:1-12

January 7, 2024

Introduction

1. They did not quit because of the _____:

Matthew 2:1-2 *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

It is not difficult in such a world to get a person interested in the message of the Gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Galatians 6:9 *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”*

2. They did not quit in the face of _____ or _____:

Matthew 2:3-4 *“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.”*

2 Timothy 3:7 *“...always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.”*

3. They did not quit because they were led to a _____:

Matthew 2:11-12 *“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”*

2 Timothy 4:7 *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

4. They did not quit because of _____:

Matthew 2:12 *“And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”*

Conclusion

“Courage does not mean you don’t get afraid. Courage means you don’t let fear stop you.” ~Bethany Hamilton

Q: In the year ahead, what journey is God asking you to finish?