

God Meets Human Longing

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The background for today's teaching is the visit of the Magi. After the lowly shepherds, the next visitors of Baby Jesus were the Magi or wise men (Mt. 2:1-12). They were indeed wise men because they were able to interpret and follow the star to where Jesus was. Again, the Magi proved their discernment when they followed the instructions in their dream to take a different path going home. Similarly, when Jesus guides us in our daily life, we should follow Him; we should not reverse the process by expecting Him to give us all our wants and whims.

1. Who were the Magi?

The three (3) Magi symbolized the people(s) outside the Jewish culture. Regardless of whether they are Jewish or not, St. Paul said that with the coming of Jesus, there are no masters and slaves; everyone is equal. There is only one body with Jesus as the head. God's presence among the Magi inspired them to bring meaningful gifts:

- 1.1. Gold is a symbol of royalty. Jesus is the King of kings.
- 1.2. Frankincense used in prayers & masses is a symbol of priests.
- 1.3. Myrrh which has a bitter taste is a symbol of prophets who led bitter lives. Jesus Himself suffered severely.

2. True wisdom only comes from God. True wisdom that comes from God is always fresh, up-to-date, relevant, useful and free for all .

- 2.1. God who is almighty has limitless love and justice for us.
- 2.2. He respects the process. He does not want us to do "shortcuts" in our lives. Though the process is challenging and incomprehensible, we should truly submit to Him.
- 2.3. Many times, we act like God. We question God: why did He not give us what we prayed for? It should be clear that He is God in all circumstances, in good and in

bad times. He allows even the bad times for a good reason: to teach us, to mold us, and to bring out the best in us.

3. Who trusted the process?

- 3.1. **Mary** suffered in the beginning; yet, she trusted God and submitted to the process.
- 3.2. **Jesus** submitted Himself to the process of redemption that the Father planned. He had a moment of anxiety, but He declared, "Not my will, but Your will be done" (Mt. 26:36-42).

4. What does God require so that His wisdom will be given to us?

- 4.1. **Willingness to have that wisdom.** King Solomon prayed for wisdom which was the most important. God was so pleased that He gave Solomon riches and fame.
- 4.2. **Faithfulness and service** mean just as much as tenure. Though St. Paul was the last to be called, he had accomplished much for the propagation of faith.
- 4.3. **Desire for Unity.** We should be one body, one spirit, and one faith which our Lord Jesus desires. We should act as spiritual brothers and sisters to people of other faith/beliefs, and to those who are disregarded/rejected by society.

5. Our longing is to be with God for all eternity.

This is manifested in our longings: to be accepted, to belong, to succeed, etc. These are previews of the greater longing, for we are created for God. Let us not complicate life.

Conclusion: Let us listen to God in every decision and act with discernment, i.e., based on the precepts of our faith. As we start this new year, let us continue to improve our life, for God has plans for us. Let us respect the process until He reveals the truth, so we can enjoy the blessings.

Reflection: For each decision, ask yourself:

1. What will I do to please God? Will it promote goodwill and spread His kingdom?
2. Where will my soul go with this decision?

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