



Pastor Kris Beckert
January 3, 2016

A New Year – A New Hope
Matthew 2:1-12

Looking Back: What were the mile markers of your 2015?

Looking Ahead: What direction are you headed in 2016?

Epiphany- “a showing forth”

- Twelve Days of Christmas Dec 25-Jan 6
- Early Church Feast celebrated beginning ~300's A.D.
- Marked visit of Magi and Jesus' baptism

When we trust that God is one step ahead of us, we can:

I. Seek to take a _____

Matthew 2:1-2 *In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”*

- Magi – magicians, a pagan scholarly people, studied Hebrew Scriptures
- v.1 *from the East* –
- Believed stars marked the birth of kings
- traveled ~900 miles

II. Seek _____

Matthew 2:3-8 *When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”*

God directs us through:

1. Scripture
2. Experience/reason
3. People

III. Seek to be open to _____

Matthew 2:9-12 *When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. What were the mile markers of your 2015? What direction are you headed in 2016? Where does your faith factor in?
2. What first or next step might God be calling you to take?
3. When has God directed you through Scripture or people in your life?
4. Have you ever been re-directed, only to find God was one step ahead of you? How does that affect how you see your current situation?
5. How will your faith in Christ impact your direction this new year? How do you need God to help you?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.