

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

(THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY, HIS MOTHER)

My brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Did you have a meaningful Christmas celebration? I hope so. I hope we all have meaningfully celebrated Christmas and welcomed Jesus into our hearts. We are coming towards the end of Christmas season

Today's gospel is in Mt 2 1-12, the visit of the wise men to the manger, gives us that opportunity to reflect about those people who had a meaningful Christmas.

In the gospel today, we come across the wise men. Yes, we do not know how many were there. There is no reference to the number in the Bible, but we have three gifts they offer. So, we assume that there were three men, three wise men.



I wish to pick up three words from the gospel story today. First the wise men were seeking, searching. They came in search, they came to the palace of Herod and said, we have come in search. Second, they worshiped, when they met the Lord, they worshiped. Third, after worshiping, they went back to their hometown. They went back to their hometown through another way.

Let's just look at these three words. 1. Seeking (Searching), in fact, God's word in the book of Jeremiah 29:13 tells us, **"If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me"**. when there is a genuine thirst for God, when there is a genuine desire for God, we meet God in our life. St. John of the Cross has this beautiful saying, he says, **"A person receives from God as much as he expects from God"**.

I remember a small story I heard long years back. Once a person came to a Master, a spiritual Master, and asked him, "Master I wish to have a God experience? I wish to have a God encounter? The Master neglected him, didn't pay much attention to him. The man came a second day, third day, fourth day, making the same request. I wish to have a God experience. Then the Master took him to the nearby lake, and made him to walk along with him to the lake, went into the deep depth of the lake, the Master caught the head of that man and pushed him down to the water, and he was struggling for his breath. finally, the Master released him. when he came up, he asked, what are you doing? Are you trying to kill me? Then the master said, See, just now, when you were under the water, how much you desired for the breath, when you begin to desire for God

that way as you desire for your breath, you will meet with God. The Psalmist puts that so beautifully, **like a deer that pants for the living waters, so my soul thirst for you.**

My sisters and brothers, every day we will have Christmas experience when we have that sort of desire, thirst, and attitude of seeking for God. The wise men came in search of the Christ, search of Jesus. And wise men and women, even today, search for God. Our search for God is in the scripture. Like When I open the scripture, when I read, when I study, when I meditate, when I contemplate, when I try to live the God's word, I am seeking for God. Seek for God, find a quality time every day, different ways in which we need to seek God. Wise men are always seeking for God.

Second, they worshiped. They found baby Jesus in the hands of his blessed mother, and they worshiped. They offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and they worshipped. My sisters and brothers, God's word is inviting always to imitate them in worshiping, worshiping the Almighty God.

We know, when the wise men were in the palace, the scribes, the priests, they guided. They said, you go to Bethlehem, that is a place where the saviour is to be born, but the scribes and the priests from the palace of Herod did not come to the manger to worship. Many times, we all have intellectual knowledge, but we don't go to the manger to worship and meet Christ. Look of Psalms 73: 25 tells us, **"I have no one but you in heaven, and here on this earth, I seek no one but you"**. One day they will realize in heaven, we have no one but Jesus. Let us choose to worship Him today. When Jesus was born here on this earth, the angels came down to sing the song of worship, they sang, **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to people of good will.** Let us join the shepherds, let us join the Angels, let us join the wise men. They're all people who went to manger to worship. We need to worship, as I've said, often, let us turn our worry into worship, then he will enter into our lives with his power and with his grace.

The third lesson from the wise men, after that beautiful moment of worshiping, meeting Jesus in the manger, the wise men chose another way. They changed their way. They did not go back to Herod. They did not go back to Jerusalem. They chose another way to go back to their hometown.

Again, we have that beautiful word of God, **II Corinthians 5:17** **"One who is in Christ Jesus, is a new creation, the old is gone, and behold, the new has come"**. When we have a God experience, we become new persons.

My sisters and brothers, one simple way to examine whether we had a beautiful, meaningful Christmas is that, have I changed my ways? Have I changed my thinking? Have I given space for God? We need to change our ways. All those destructive habits, all those destructive ways that the Lord is inviting us to give up, let us make one decision to move away and choose another way, don't go back to Herod. Herod is someone who wants to kill Jesus. All those people who are taking us away from Christ, all those habits that are taking us away from Christ, it is time to say goodbye and choose another way. So, three words from the wise men, three virtues from the wise men, seek and find him, and then worship him and change your ways. **Amen.**