

Reaching God.....

I am back after a long break. I had to be away and was travelling, so could not write.

Yesterday I spoke in my church in the evening service and the message I believe is quite important for all of us.

How do we reach God?

Is it through our knowledge or revelation?

What is the difference between knowledge and revelation?

Knowledge is acquired, revelation comes from God.

But God can reveal Himself through knowledge ... Confusing.... Read on.

In all of humanity, despite the wretchedness of the modern world, there is still this deep yearning for God. To know God, to be loved by Him, to touch Him, be touched by Him....God has planted this desire for Him, this hunger for Him in all hearts.

For some revelation of God comes early and simple, some have to search and decipher through knowledge codes, travel far and reach God. In the end everyone is filled.

This again is the story of Christmas. Christ was born in Bethlehem as the Saviour of the whole humankind. Even today this is the good news that Christ was born for us, died for us and was resurrected so that we could have eternal life through Him. This life's searching for God, ends effectively when we reach Jesus.

Going back two thousand centuries, baby Jesus is born. Nature rejoices, Heaven celebrates, but where are the people?

Two groups of people come to see Jesus. One is the shepherd group. But how did they know that Jesus was born?

A bright light.

A heavenly choir.

An angel announcing the birth of Jesus and the exact address.

And if they had trouble believing they also gave a sign! It was that simple.

They just had to get up and go. Reaching Jesus was so easy.

In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is [£]Christ the Lord. ¹²"This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men [£]with whom He is pleased." Luke 2

But there was another group. The wise men. The astronomers. The scientists. They have been watching the sky everyday of their lives and one day they discover a strange star. A star with a bright light that did not belong anywhere. They wracked their heads over it and decided a great king had been born.

Though they were learned people, they also believed in God. They believed a Creator who can hang a new star in the sky to celebrate His Son's birth on the earth.

They were scholars. They had great knowledge. Yet they believed in a God who created the Heaven and the earth.

That is why life becomes desolate for the modern day scientist who firmly believes there is no God and everything evolved. They have nothing to hope for, nothing to live for, nothing to travel for, save for their material needs.

But this wisemen of the east, believed in the Creator God. They desired to know God, to see God. And looking at the distant flickering star they set out to journey. Some say they must have gone from India, which could be very true. It could also be China or Afghanistan.. Probably had taken the silk route..

But these searchers had no heavenly choruses, no angels, no address, no sign, nothing. But they trudged on.

T. S . Eliot the famous American English poet wrote a beautiful poem entitled, "The Gift of the Magi."

In it he speaks about their anxieties and doubts on the way. He starts the poem like, "A cold coming we had of it..."

One day they saw the star so bright and another day the sky becomes cloudy and they are distraught. Then they think was it a mistake, this whole enterprise, leaving family and profession.... What if, if this ends a wild goose chase?

But the next day, their star had moved! And they say, yes we are on the way. They journey, their pace quickened by what they could see at the end of their trail.

And it seemed after many months that the star almost stopped. Their hearts leapt into their mouths. And now they were in Jerusalem the Capital.

Now the rational minds started working. A star , a new star, a moving star could only mean a Great King.

Reason asks : Where will a Great King be born? Reason answers : In a palace. They don't look up anymore to see the star still moving.

So the wise men march confidently into the Herod's palace and demand to see the Great King.

There has been no baby in the recent years.

Herod is horrified.

A Great King?

Wisemen from the East?

A moving Star?

Herod summons all the priests and scribes and burrowed the prophecy in Micah where the prophet had foretold the place of birth of this Great King. They searched the scriptures and found the location.

The magi came out disappointed. But when they looked up their star moved again winking at them! It went on and stood over the place where the Child was.

At last they were Home.

Yes when we see Jesus, we will all be Home.

The purpose of our life here will surely be fulfilled.

The Visit of the Magi

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, ²magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ³"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ⁴When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁵Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁶They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." ⁹After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the

east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

It is not a horrifying sin, to be skeptical about God. I have many friends who just cannot believe in God the way I do believe.

But what I believe is that God has His own ways and methods of revealing Himself to different people. God does not reject people summarily for a small doubt about Him. But He keeps speaking to them through their doubts, knowledge, faith etc.

For the scientist He speaks through science, knowledge. For the believer an angel will do.

God does not despise our doubts but He longs that we somehow reach Him through Jesus. Let us reach God through Jesus.

Acts 17:26-28 (NASB) ²⁶and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'