



December 22

Dr.X, Dr.Y, Dr.Z

(Others who obeyed)

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7a)

The wise men came from the East to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews?" (Mt 2:2). This indicates that they were non-Jews. They were probably astrologers. They were quite fascinated by the appearance of an unusual star and they named it as "His Star!"

They must have been discouraged when they found that the King had not been born in Jerusalem, and the leaders in Israel had not had sufficient knowledge concerning the birth of the Messiah. The journey had been long and weary. But God rewarded their earnestness. He made "His star" reappear! "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" (v10).

Here is an encouraging truth for us. If we are sincere to know God's will and obey it, He will certainly reveal it to us eventhough there may be temporary delays and we may deviate mistakenly in between. God's voice of correction from behind is assured if we happen to deviate from the straight path (Isa 30:21).

The wise men became "wiser" when they had to return to their country. "Being divinely warned" in a dream they took a different route back home (Mt 2:12). "Warned of God" in the original means "oracularly answered," implying a preceding question. The *Amplified Bible* renders it as, "Receiving an answer to their asking, they were divinely instructed and warned in a dream not to go back to Herod..." Having made a mistake once, because they solely depended on their common sense and went to Jerusalem, they now sought a definite divine guidance.

God does allow us make mistakes, but with an educative purpose. The wise men had to return another way to bypass Jerusalem. They probably ventured far south to Hebron, then followed the rugged road to Gaza on the coast, where another road could lead them northward. This route would have carried them through Nazareth, then Capernaum and on to Damascus. This was obviously a much longer and more tedious journey. Obedience costs!

*As they offered gifts most rare, at Thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King!*

(William C. Dix, 1837-1898)
