

The Light of Christ

The Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12) tells the story of the Magi searching for and finding the infant Jesus, the newborn King of Kings. Key to this story is the journey that they made to him by following the brilliant light of his star. When I was younger and less mature in our faith, I thought the imagery of the star was a little overly dramatic. But I eventually came to know differently as I considered my own life journey toward him. The brilliant star is essential. It is the first manifestation of the light of Christ that lured people of all walks of life to him. It is the light by which I am now illuminated.

I then also realized the importance of this infancy narrative. God is reinforcing for us the importance of a life journey spent in the light of Christ from birth to physical death. We need to consider our own life journey walked and lived within the radiance of his holy light. We need to be transformed by this walk in the holy light so that we too can illuminate a path of life for others to see. Many times in life I have found myself in the darkness of anxiety, sadness and anger. I eventually came to know that the light of Christ's star helped me through those difficult times. Almost always that light became physically manifested through the presence of other people who had some part to play in getting me through those dark periods. Overall, though, I feel like I have been living a really blessed life, because it is now difficult to recall all of the painful details during those dark periods. But then, that is God's purpose for us in this life. We need to know that we have been blessed by him and that we need to be blessing and light for others.

Another very important point to know and live by is that we have to become and remain the most humble bearer of this light. When the Magi searched and found the newborn King of the Jews and all Gentiles, they found God in the humblest human form he could have taken, that of a helpless infant. Jesus remained humble throughout his life, and he was very effective at touching the hearts of people. We need to remember that we also must serve him and all people in the humblest posture possible. Only in our humbleness will we reach the hearts of those we serve as he did.

Peace Be With You,

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