

Message

- Signs in the Christmas Story
- Signs are common place on our journey of faith
- We just have to be open to see
- God shows us signs for various reasons
- ...Confirmation, Faith, Salvation, Calling, etc.

Signs

The Magi

What's interesting about the Magi is the sign was leading them West. - toward Gods presence in the temple, Israel in the Promise-land, the Wise men to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, **Magi from the east** came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? **We saw his star when it rose** and have come to worship him."

- Normal - wise men-seeing stars
- ...Wise men (Magi) students of the stars.
- ...It is believed that they were ancient astronomers.
- ...studying and reading the stars.
- ...It was in there daily routine that God gave them a sign
- ...God can give us a sign through what we already know and what we are familiar with.
- ...The sign will be connected to what we already know and see but different enough to get our attention and realize God is speaking.

EXAMPLES

- ...Jesus and the miracle of Catching fish w/disciples
- ...Papa and man fishing story
- ...Car not running out of gas
- ...Cell phone reception in an emergency
- ...A person stopping to help or to talk
- ...Opportunity

2.

- Shepherds - abnormal

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields,

keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, **an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** **And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.**"

The 2 types of signs:

-Angel & Gods glory

...an absolute experience from God that cannot be doubted.

...They knew that they knew they just had an encounter from God.

-Babe lying in a manger

...Not too far fetched to be unbelievable but abnormal enough for the shepherds to realize this is the sign.

-After the sign they made HASTE...

Luke 2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Ending

-In both accounts, each party acted upon what they saw.

When God shows you a SIGN, act upon it.

-DONT THROW IT AWAY