



Scripture Nugget – God draws near to those who have room in their hearts

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10-12).

When the time came for Mary to give birth, she and Joseph could not find any room at the inn. This was probably because of the crowds that came down to Bethlehem for the population census. Instead, they had to make themselves comfortable in a stable where animals were resting. On the spiritual level, it reflects that the Jewish people was not prepared to receive their long-awaited promised Messiah when He came into their midst. When Jesus was born, no one among the elite Jewish religious leaders noticed anything special even though they knew well the prophecy regarding the birth of the Saviour. Not surprisingly, God bypassed them and instead, chose the poor and rough shepherds who were living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night to break the news of the tremendous event – an event that totally changes favorably the eternal destiny of mankind.

Of surprise was the kind of visitors Baby Jesus would later receive. He did not receive visits from the chief priests, or scribes or religious elders but three foreign wise men from the East who travelled hundreds of miles for this single-minded purpose. They were so far away yet they were able to discern the important birth of the newborn King of the Jews. Led only by their knowledge of prophecy and an extraordinary star that rose in the East, they painstakingly ventured through hot and cold deserts and difficult terrain in order to pay homage to the newborn King. The gifts they brought along for the Infant King reflect their wisdom: gold indicating the divinity of the Infant King, frankincense indicating the holiness and righteousness of the Sacrifice that the Infant King would be making of Himself later, and myrrh indicating the suffering and pain that will be endured by the Infant King in His life.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, when You came into our world, You find there was no warm welcome for You in human hearts. Instead of great joy and celebration there were loud lamentation and crying of women who lost their baby sons in the massacre ordered by King Herod in Bethlehem and its vicinity in his attempt to kill You, so threatened was he by You even though You were just a little baby. Through the shepherds, You show that Your favour rests on simple and humble hearts. Through the three Magi, You show that for those hearts that seek You out, there is nothing that You will not do for them. A miraculous, moving star that other people cannot see, led them unfailingly and safely to their destination, and they fulfilled their ardent desire to pay homage to the newborn Infant King. Undoubtedly, You blessed them beyond human understanding. Take my heart and make it Yours. Let Your favour rests upon me, and give me the grace to be like the three wise men so that I may seek You out and follow You in whatever circumstances. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk