

The Magi's Story "Something Better Than Religion"

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

True religion is not about race and it's not about _____. It's about having a _____ with a loving heavenly father.

We have a tendency to want to box God in and paint him exclusively in our team colors -- as if real Christianity is red, white and blue, or as if real Christianity is southern, or as if real Christianity fits within the confines of our denomination.

For those who are involved in spreading the gospel throughout the world, it has always been a challenge to make the distinction between cultural preferences and Biblical principles.

The message of the gospel is that this isn't about race and it isn't about ritual, it's about a _____ with God, through Jesus Christ.

The story of the magi shows us how our God is an all-inclusive God that he loves everyone in the whole wide world and he extends his grace to everyone in the whole wide world.

The wise men might not have arrived on Christmas night. In fact, some scholars speculate that it might have been as much as two years after the birth of Christ that they arrived.

While the political and religious leaders of the day were clueless about the birth of Christ, God chose to reveal the miracle of the birth of the Messiah to this group of spiritual seekers

Three wonderful things about the gospel according to Christmas:

1. God reveals himself to those who seek him.

God reveals himself to those who are _____ for him. Ref: Jeremiah 29:13

2. God speaks to those who will listen.

It takes _____ to believe that God is speaking to you, and it takes _____ to act on that belief.

How does God speak to us?

First of all, God speaks to us through the Bible. Ref: Psalm 119:105

Secondly, God speaks to us through the preaching/teaching of his Word. The preaching and teaching of the Bible is sacred.

Thirdly, God also speaks to us through many other sources.

God may speak to you through a dream or a vision or a sign. When he does, it will confirm -- and never contradict -- what he has spoken in his Word.

3. God leads those who will follow.

If you are willing to let God lead you through the day-to-day events of your life, he will do it. The road may not always be easy, but he will lead you if you're willing to follow.