

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Epiphany! A star is in the east. The Magi come. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. You know the story... the Magi have been following a star in order to find the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod (now, be careful... there are six different Herods in the Bible, so if you hear about “Herod” make sure you know which one is being referenced) tries to gain the trust of the Magi so that he can find and destroy this usurper to the throne. This King Herod was so paranoid that he would kill anyone who might have even *thought* about becoming king... even to killing his own family. He was ruthless!

At heart, this is a story of searching.

The Magi are searching for something, for someone who will fill the emptiness in their lives. They have a longing in their hearts. Their longing drove them through dangerous and difficult travel, guided at night by a star, to a foreign land, to find a king. They seek... and they *find* in Christ. Luke tells us that after encountering the baby Christ, they “departed for their country by another way” (Luke 2:12). They are changed, so that they will never be the same.

Herod is searching for something. He has built his little kingdom around him, but it is all on his power, and in his desperate attempt to hold onto his power, he will kill anyone who gets in the way. He seeks stability and reassurance, but by seeking it in himself – in his own power – he will never have it. He is destined to live out his life in uncertainty, emptiness, insecurity, anxiety and self-doubt. Had he honestly sought the Christ-child, as had the Magi, he would have found the peace for which he was seeking.

Most of all, this is a story of a God seeking His people. Almighty God sets a star in the sky to show that He is coming. He makes Himself so small that anyone can hold Him. The passionate desire of His Heart is the *love* of His people that He created. He comes into our humanity seeking you and me!

As we continue through this Christmas Season, I invite you to *let God find you*. Let Him enter into your life in a deeper way, and let Him find you loving Him with your hearts.