

The Visitors Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas in Bethlehem. The ancient dream: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love.

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Everyday heroes – the shepherds (Luke 2)

God often surprises us when we're living life in the trenches.

When the miracle comes, it's easy to get excited about the miracle instead of the message behind the miracle.

Why angels weren't enough:

When the shepherds embraced the "gospel of look," they revealed their proper priorities.

They were more impressed with the Savior than they were the angels!

Humble Heroes – the magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

Pagan magi had to overcome incredible obstacles to find God

- Religious obstacles
- Political obstacles
- Obstacles of apathy
- Obstacles of expectations

Their problem: they had enough knowledge to seek God, but not enough to find him.

Their problem: to hold on to faith when belief is confronted with reality.

Their reward: When they sought out God in faith, God communicated with them in truth.