



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY YEAR A – January 5, 2020

The Magi story today, on this Feast of the Epiphany, reminds us each year that Jesus came into our world not just for the chosen people of his time but for all people of all time, Jews and non-Jews alike.

He came to dispel the darkness of sin and to challenge us to let our light shine for all to see. So that non-believers may be guided by the shining light of our example and be led out of the darkness of their world into the light of the kingdom God.

Today, Jesus is not found in a crib in Bethlehem of Judea. He is found in the hearts and souls of his followers all over the world. His disciples are now the stars that shine in the darkness of our world, pointing the way to Jesus.

Jesus says in Saint Matthew, Chapter 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world". Notice, he doesn't say, "I'm counting on the Pope to dispel all the darkness on planet earth -- or I'm counting on the Mother Teresas of the world to help the poor and the hungry". He says, "I'm counting on you." Maybe your light and mine isn't as bright as some of the great saints of our time. It doesn't have to be. All the darkness in the world cannot snuff out the light of a single tiny candle. The light that you bring into a world of darkness is just as important as the light of Jesus. In fact, it should be the light of Jesus.

As I have said often before, "There are two ways to bring light into darkness - one is to be the candle, the other is to be the mirror that reflects it.

Jesus is the candle. We are the mirrors that reflect him. That's what Epiphany means in 2020. In one sense, Jesus can be seen more clearly in our time, than he could be at the first Epiphany.

More than 2000 years ago, when that little baby boy grew up, God depended on John the Baptist to make him know, John the Baptist is long since gone. Now God depends on us to make Jesus known. He depends on us to make our Lord's way of life known.

St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world."

Now, God depends on you and me. For a few moments in silence, reflect on how, in this new year, you will bring the light of Christ into our world.

GOD BLESS YOU

