

Pascal, a 17th century French theologian said: "There are only 3 types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live, not seeking or finding him. On Epiphany Sunday we see these 3 types.

Among those who did not seek or find God was King **Herod**. He pretended to seek God, but his real concern was to defend his power. He was so power crazy and suspicious of everyone that he murdered even his own family members, his wife, and two sons.

At the other end of the spectrum are those who found God and served him - **Joseph** and Mary.

In the middle are the **Magi**, those seeking God. Today we focus on their journey of faith as it represents our own journey.

For many of **you**, the Christmas season was about journeys. Leaving your work place or college and travelling home to be with your family.

The **Christmas story** itself is full of journeys. Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem. The Angels travelled from heaven to earth. The shepherds travelled to the manger. The Holy Family travelled to Egypt.

These journeys end with the more **dramatic journey** of the Magi. But who were the Magi? Tradition says that Melchior was Asian, Balthazar Persian and Caspar African - representing different races of the world. The whole world is drawn to Jesus. In the Magi we see three outstanding qualities.

Seekers. They wanted to know the truth. They studied, looked for wisdom even outside of their own tradition and religion. Only they noticed the strange light in the heavens.

Followers. When they saw the star, they dropped everything. The journey to Bethlehem would take them months. It would cost them hardships, and leaving their families and all their security. They would have to totally re-organize their lives on finding Jesus. But they followed God's sign and set out.

Worshippers. This journey for them was a massive leap of faith. Though they had the star to guide them, they had no guarantees, no address, no GPS. They simply had hope that the words of scripture were true, that God's light would not deceive them, that they would get to see the baby king. That is faith. Trusting God completely even without human guarantees.

Their journey is our own **journey**. God is seeking us, there is no doubt about it. That is Christmas. But like the Magi, do we long for God so much that we are willing to take such risks? Are we prepared to seek Him relentlessly? Do we have that kind of faith that does not demand guarantees, but chooses to follow in trust?

Secondly, are we willing to become that star for someone who is searching for God? Someone so hurt, so deep in pain, struggling with unbelief, that he/she can't see the signs of God in their life? Can we reach out to them and become that star, a guiding light in their darkest moments, so that they too can discover God's face?

One of the best **compliments** that you can ever hear from someone is: "because of you, I have discovered the face of God." That is awesome? Can you make that happen? Dear friends, happy Epiphany! Happy journey towards the discovery of God, and leading someone to discover God.