

Jesus is for Everyone

After Jesus was born there were two groups of people that visited him. The first group was made up of shepherds. Luke tells how an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds in the fields and told them about the birth of the Savior. In response to this announcement they went into Bethlehem to see this one who would be the Messiah (see Luke 2.8-20). Though shepherds were lowly people, they witnessed the heavenly host singing praises to God and they saw the baby Jesus for themselves.

The second group to visit Jesus in Bethlehem was the magi or wise men from the East. Matthew tells about their journey to Israel. Unlike the shepherds, they traveled a long way to see Jesus. They probably came from the distant land of Persia. They followed a star to Bethlehem and there they found Jesus. They worshiped him as a king and gave him expensive gifts (see Matthew 2.1-12). These magi were educated, wealthy, and powerful. Yet, before Jesus they bowed in homage recognizing that Jesus was far greater than they were.

These two vastly different groups highlight the fact that Jesus is for everyone. The Christmas story shows how God's love extends to both the rich and the poor, the high and the lowly, the educated and the uneducated. You may feel like a shepherd—a common person who is little known in the world, maybe even despised by the world. You may wonder if God notices you or cares about you. He does. He loves you so much that he sent his Son to be your Savior. Though you may not be esteemed by the world, you are greatly loved by Jesus.

On the other hand, you may be like the magi and have a lot of money and power. Yet despite your wealth you feel empty inside. You long to worship someone greater than yourself or your riches. Well, Jesus is available to you as well. He saved Zacchaeus who was a rich man, transforming him into a humble servant of the Lord (see Luke 19.1-10). God drew these powerful magi from the East to worship his Son, and God wants to draw you to his Son as well. Rather than trusting in your money or power; put your trust in Jesus Christ alone. He will save you and make you a new person—whether you're like a shepherd or like the magi. Jesus is for everyone.

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