

## OPENNESS TO HIS GUIDANCE

Series: "WE'VE NEVER NEEDED CHRISTMAS MORE THAN NOW", Part 3 of 4  
Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Selected Scriptures from Matthew 2

**Big Idea: Just as God guided the magi to Jesus, He desires to guide our steps today, even though the journey may be difficult and dangerous.**

Matthew 2:1-2, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Numbers 24:17a, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel."

### 1. GOD'S WILL IS OFTEN NOT CRYSTAL CLEAR.

Three things we're often driven by when God's will isn't crystal clear:

**A. Pious platitudes.**

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

**B. Fickle feelings.**

**C. Paralyzing phobias.**

Isaiah 58:11a, The Lord will guide you always.

Isaiah 30:21, Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

## **2. GOD'S WILL IS OFTEN QUITE CHALLENGING.**

Mark 8:34b-35, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Matthew 2:12, "And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."

## **3. GOD'S WILL IS ULTIMATELY CHRIST-CENTERED.**

Matthew 2:11, "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."