

# Advent Devotional - Day 19

December 19<sup>th</sup>



**Scripture: Matthew 2:7-8 Verse:** *“Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’”*

## Reflection:

Herod’s intentions in this passage are deceitful and driven by fear. He pretends to want to worship the newborn King, but his true motive is to eliminate any potential threat to his throne. This stark contrast between Herod’s duplicity and the Magi’s genuine quest highlights the different responses to Jesus’ birth.

The Magi, on the other hand, embarked on a long and arduous journey, guided by a star, with the sincere purpose of worshiping the newborn King. Their mission was one of faith, dedication, and reverence. Despite the dangers and uncertainties, they remained focused on their goal to honor Jesus.

In modern times, we often encounter situations where intentions and actions can be misleading. We might face individuals or circumstances that appear supportive but have hidden agendas. The story of Herod and the Magi encourages us to discern true intentions and to remain steadfast in our own missions of faith and integrity.

Reflect on a time when you had to navigate through deceit or hidden motives. How did you stay true to your values and mission? The Magi’s unwavering dedication to their quest for Jesus inspires us to pursue our spiritual journeys with sincerity and determination, regardless of the obstacles we may face.

As you go through your day, consider how you can embody the faith and dedication of the Magi. Seek to discern true intentions in your interactions and remain committed to your spiritual goals. Let the story of Herod and the Magi remind you to stay focused on what truly matters: honoring and worshiping Jesus with a sincere heart.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of the Magi and their sincere quest to worship Jesus. Help us to discern true intentions in our lives and to remain steadfast in our faith and dedication. Guide us to pursue our spiritual journeys with sincerity and integrity, honoring You in all that we do. Amen.



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