

CHOOSING ANOTHER WAY
Matthew 2:1-12

TWO TYPES OF TRAVELERS

Type A Travelers:

- * They know exactly where they are going and how they are going to get there.
- * They get the car serviced and the tires checked.
- * The holiest rule is that they go back the same way they came.

Type B Travelers:

- * They are spontaneous.
- * They will leave when everyone gets ready and they stop when they get hungry.
- * They don't know exactly how they will get there or what route they will take to get back home.

SLEEPWALKING THROUGH LIFE

Fighting the Impulse to Stay the Same.

- * One of Newton's important laws of physics was that a body at rest tends to remain at rest unless acted on by some outside force.
- * Sometimes we are forced to take another route in life, but we fight the imposition.

New Year's Resolutions.

- * It's important to have goals.
- * "If you always do what you've always done ... you'll always get what you've always gotten!" (John Maxwell)

Putting New Wine in Old Wine Skins.

- * We change little corners of our lives without changing our basic character.
- * If we're going to make 2007 different, the change has to go deep within us.

BEING BORN AGAIN

Taking a Different Route Home.

- * It means a brand new beginning.
 - * It means a new way of life.
 - * It means a change of mind.

Three Things to Do:

- * Pray unceasingly.
 - * Love your family.
 - * Do what needs to be done.

What Most Needs Remodeling?

- * What values have become threadbare?
 - * What disciplines are out of order?
 - * What are you missing in life?

Prayer Concerns: Members: Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Anne Miller, Carol Webb, Tyler Zaricor ... **Friends:** Bobby Atkins, Earl Braden, Lane Brasfield, **Mildred Chandler**, Jonathan Cupples, **Wallis Ann & Travis Davison, Sr**, Kathy Greer, Jean Hansford, Jim Hixon, Benette Hobday, Linda Lindner, Stallings Lipford, **Geraldine McFarland**, Sarah Moore, Edith Robinson, Jennie Stafford, **Dorothy Stutts**, Rob Turnage, Earl Vickery, **Stephen Ministry** ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

O loving God, how quickly life moves past us so that some of our best moments and years become dreams only dimly remembered. But this moment is here, and is ours, and though we know it will soon be gone, we feel it now, and thank you for its fullness.

At the beginning of this year, we look back at last year and remember good times, we remember goals reached and dreams made real, and we thank you for them. We remember moments of testing, and we acknowledge that you were with us then, guiding, directing. We remember times when we stumbled, things we said and did that hurt someone, and we ask your forgiveness, and theirs, for any unresolved hurt. We have all of us sinned and fallen short of your glory, and Father, if you can forgive us, surely we can forgive one another.

Now go with us into the unrevealed days of 2007. Bless us as a church in the year ahead, and give us your constant guidance, we pray in the name of the one who has promised always to be with us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

January 14	<i>What a Wedding!</i>	John 2:1-11
January 21	<i>I Knew That</i>	Luke 4:14-21
January 28	<i>Jesus' First Sermon</i>	Mark 6:1-6

On the Radio (1450 AM):

January 14	<i>With Wings Like Eagles</i>	Isaiah 40:28-31
January 21	<i>Finding God in a Busy World</i>	Psalm 46
January 28	<i>Qualities of an Encourager</i>	Acts 4:32-37