



Expect the Unexpected: When You Follow A Star and Find A Shack

(The Testing of One's Faith)

Pastor Scott Montagne

2nd Sunday of Advent

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Sociologists tell us that people's conduct is greatly influenced by their expectations.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

(Proverbs 13:12)

Matthew 2:1-12

When wise men find a shack after following a star...

1. They still worship the LORD

v 11a ...on coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed and worshipped Him

2. They still offer their best to the LORD

v 11b ...when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

3. They stay tuned into the LORD for continued direction.

v 12 ...being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

The story of the Wise Men demonstrates solid faith in the face of seeming disappointment.

- ◆ Have you had your faith truly tested due to some unmet expectation?

- ◆ How have you responded to great disappointment?

- ◆ With the Lord's help, will you purpose to apply these three faith attributes no matter what?