

grave. Jesus walked through life in the light of Father's favour.

Who thinks God the Father might know more about life than they do? What favour we have to be able to listen to him in Jesus. What favour to have the privilege of simply talking with Jesus about life and what to do. I'm not left in the dark, I have the joy of the star; Jesus is my star, and he shines, he leads, he invites me to sit down a

while and talk. He blesses me with favour for he shares his thoughts with me. Wow, I get to listen to God, I get his insights on life. Talk about favoured.

This year I invite you to live favoured. Why not start by asking Jesus what theme he has for you this year; then listen, grab that first thought, and do it. Follow that star to where Jesus leads, and enjoy living favoured.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

6 January 2019

EPIPHANY—AN A HA MOMENT

Matthew 2:1-12



The wise men were looking out for the star. How many people would have seen the star; hundreds, thousand, millions? A star in the night sky isn't hidden is it; it's there for all to see.

So why did only a few know what it meant and respond?

Last week we focused on 'Change'. This week we begin the church season of 'Epiphany'. At Christmas there was an epiphany, a wonderful new thought was dropped into people's minds; God in the flesh.

The wise men planned, travelled, sought, worshipped because God has opened their minds to this new star. They worshipped Jesus, giving themselves to

the new king. God had dropped a new reality into their lives. I'm sure it blew their minds.

Herod's epiphany was somewhat different. The thought that came to him was a threat. A new king; that couldn't be tolerated for Herod was the king. In Herod's mind there was no room for another king. So Herod set in action death and destruction to hang onto what he wanted.

What epiphany have you received from God over this Christmas season and New Year? Have you asked?

I read a devotion inviting me to ask Jesus for a theme for the coming year. So I thought, why not give it a go. I asked;

'Jesus, what theme do you have for this year?'

You know what, a thought jumped straight into my mind. An epiphany from Jesus. An 'A ha' moment. The word 'Favoured' came straight to my mind.

I'd been reading a book called 'Favoured' by Peter Steicke late last year. Actually he emailed a chapter a week over several weeks, focusing on how God, in Jesus, favours us.

I don't know about you but I never grew up putting 'Favoured' and 'God' together. I grew up hearing that I'm a poor miserable sinner who needs to grovel before God to be forgiven; or else.

Maybe that was my guilty conscience hard at work! I just never put 'Favoured' and 'God' together. So reading each short devotion was an 'A ha' moment, an epiphany from the Spirit for me.

Another word that came to me when I asked for a theme was; 'Migration'. Imagine my surprise when I looked back at what Peter wrote only to find a chapter entitled 'Favour Migration'.

Do you think God is trying to tell me something? How many people saw the star and did nothing? The thought came to me; am I going to be like that, or am I going to follow the wise men and go where God leads?

Here's a few thoughts from that chapter; 'Favour Migration'.

"Favour is the Holy Spirit's perspective

we have in our life. It gives us a starting point that enables us to move forward from the position of favour toward the outcome, even if we don't know what that will look like. With Jesus, we don't have to journey into the future from a position of hopelessness or despair.

Favoured

We're called to be migrants, the migration taking place in our heart or spirit, which then renews our mind. Life in Jesus is a migratory one. Struggling with sin, for example, becomes a springboard for a new mindset. We travel from the land where the effects of sin blind and deafen us, desensitising us to the favour of God, into the land where grace abounds all the more (Romans 5:15,

17). ... Are you up for a migration?"

So this year I'm going to use the Lenten season as a time of migration, a time of change, a change of mind, where you're invited to join Jesus, as you go into the land where grace abounds. Where you go into the land

where your first thought is God's favour, which leaves you with a wonderful sense of anticipation, as you look forward

to walking through life with Jesus; favoured.

What would have happened if the wise men didn't move? Didn't grasp God's epiphany and run with it. What would have happened if the wise men simply looked at the star and said; 'that means there's a new king', and then did nothing?

Herod didn't like the idea; so he threw a tantrum. He wanted to destroy this new

king, for Herod had worked his whole life to get the power and influence he felt he had, and no-one was going to take it from him. I think you could say Herod wasn't interested in change, definitely not interested in 'migration' from him being king to subject.

Of course that's part of our migration, isn't it! We joyfully migrate from playing king to joining the wise

men in worshipping Jesus as king. And in the process discover favour.

We don't lose out as Herod feared, we gain so much. We discover favour with God. We discover being able to worship God, trusting him with our lives, and in the process discover his gracious favour. What a beautiful migration Jesus invites you to join him in.

Herod fought with all he had. He held nothing back and lost everything in his attempt to hold onto his position as king. Herod scares me, because Herod is what I could become if I choose not to live as God's favoured child in Jesus. I could so easily become self-focused, seeking to

Migration

fight for my rights, for what I want, and wow betide you if you get in my way.

How well did that work for Herod?

When the wise men saw the star after leaving Herod they were filled with joy. The joy of being favoured. They weren't left in the dark, groping around, but they walked in the light. What wonderful favour, to be able to walk in Jesus light.

Aren't we wonderfully favoured? We're not groping around in the dark seeking to exist the best we can, we too get to walk in Jesus light. We get to live life the best way Jesus knows how, talk about favoured, for I think Jesus knows more than I do.

Herod lived life the best he knew how. How well did that workout for him?

Jesus lived life the best his Father knew how. Who thinks Jesus lived knowing he was favoured by his Father? Of course he did. Jesus walked in the light of his Father's favour.

The cross didn't shape Jesus. The fear of shame didn't shape Jesus. He walked in the light of his Father's favour, so that even the dark became light. Jesus light definitely outshone the darkness of the