

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

What is it I really want for Christmas this year?

What am I not going to settle for this Christmas?

What am I going to bring to Christmas this year?

What will I bring to God this Christmas that reveals what I really think and feel about him?

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'" Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too." The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Matthew 2:1-11 (CEV)

Talk About It . . .

1. What's one of your favorite Christmas traditions? Why?
2. What are some ways in the past that you think you got Christmas wrong?
3. What do you really want for Christmas this year? Why is that? What are some things you'll need to say "no" to for that to become a reality?
4. What are you not going to settle for this Christmas?
5. In your journey towards God, how are you like the wise men? Unlike the wise men?
6. What will you bring to God this Christmas that reveals what you really think and feel about him?
7. The first Christmas the God of this universe entered into human existence in the birth of Jesus to share our joys and sorrows, our happiness and our struggles. What's it going to take for you to fully engage in the wonder and mystery of Christmas this year?