And They Came Seeking Jesus

Before his name became famous among Christians and non-Christians alike, <u>they</u> <u>came seeking him</u>.

Before there was a <u>Mary or a Joseph</u> there was <u>a Savior</u> he was called by <u>many</u> <u>names</u> from the beginning.

It started in the Garden of Eden with the first creation of man,

Abraham looked for his coming,

Moses, looked for <u>his coming</u> and **multitudes** before the birth of Christ was prophesying of the coming redeemer.

<u>Thousands of years after creation of man</u> Wise men from the east came seeking him and <u>still</u> there are wise men and women throughout the world <u>that come</u> <u>seeking the redeemer</u> of mankind the Alpha the Omega the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

I ask you "Did you come seeking the savior?"

- Have you *brought a gift* as the wise men did?
- What did you come *looking for today*?
- Did you come *looking for a prophet* or *did you come seeking a refuge* for your soul?

God did not <u>start</u> in a stable –

- *<u>His beginning was not</u>* when he was *lying in a manger*.
- His beginning *was not* when *Mary gave birth to Jesus*.
- He <u>is</u> and has <u>always</u> been **God**.
- *Christ beginning started in* the heart and <u>mind</u> of **God in the beginning**.

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The word became flesh John 1-14 and dwelt among us.
- He came to <u>redeem the sinner</u> and <u>encourage those</u> who were looking for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8 - Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

I ask you again, Did you come seeking Jesus?

- If you are seeking the Savior <u>he is here</u>, <u>he has risen</u>.
- You will not find him among the dead but among the living.

Luke 24:6 - He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

The women in: Luke 24:6 Came to anoint the body of Jesus for burying as the custom of those days were and the angel of the Lord told them this. *He is not here; he has risen!*

They came looking for <u>a dead savior</u> their <u>unbelief was darkened</u> at his death, and **he had spoken to them** of <u>his resurrection</u> but <u>their trip to the grave</u> **proved their faith was shallow** and <u>full of unbelief</u>.

If you are heart broken, confused or sick of your sin, you have found him.

- He is here in the midst of those that love him and those <u>who came seeking</u> <u>him</u>.
- Listen to me *that grave* they went to many years ago is *still empty*

For he is risen and throughout the generations *he has proved his love* for humanity.

- You will <u>not find him</u> in the place of the self-righteous,
- Neither will you <u>find him</u> in those who are <u>seeking recognition</u> of the world.
- But <u>you will find him</u> in among **the humble** and **the seeker of deliverance**.

Matt 18: 20 - Where two or three are gathered in my name I am in the midst.

Before there was a bible many awaited his coming,

- Israel in their captivity in Egypt <u>cried for four hundred years</u> and <u>sought the</u> <u>deliver</u> and **he came** in the form of a man called <u>Moses</u>.
- He spoke to man **the will of God** and that <u>through the obedience</u> of a man called **Moses** <u>Israel was delivered</u>.

God has spoken through the hearts of many men throughout the ages <u>to bring</u> <u>redemption</u> to mankind.

- But men had to be *seeking deliverance*.
- Some will follow Christ so far and <u>then go back</u> while <u>others are willing to</u> <u>make the</u> total sacrifice.

The wise men came from afar seeking a star they followed the compass of God to a humble stable and found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes laying in a manger.

Wise men still seek him. How far are you willing to go?

- And what gift have you brought to him?
- What sacrifice are you willing to make to find him?
- What would you do to find salvation for your soul?

They called him the king of Israel king of the Jews but *we that know him by name call him* <u>the King of Kings</u> and <u>the Lord of Lords</u>.

Isaiah <u>600 years before the birth of Christ prophesied</u> in **Isaiah 9:6** - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We call Him Jesus our Savior our Lord and King of Kings our redeemer.

- Many from that time have sought his blessings, his miracles and they received them---
- But they didn't bring with them a heart of repentance.

John the Baptist cried out *to the religious world* Bring forth fruit worthy of repentance.

- You cannot find him with a heart only *seeking a miracle*
- Or <u>a blessing</u> or <u>a feeling to appease</u> you of your sins –
- You must come seeking a savior and then and only then will you find what you really need
- <u>Salvation and deliverance</u> from your sins.

Wise men still seek him.

The cry of God to suffering humanity is not condemnation but a call to come.

Matthew 11:28-30 - ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 25:34-40 - ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, '**Come, you who are blessed by my Father;** take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

What have you <u>brought him</u> today have you brought him <u>your sin to lay down</u> at his feet?

- And *are you willing* to travel as the wise men traveled *to find the savior*?
- Your Journey is only a few steps.
- <u>The wise men</u> traveled for miles <u>seeking the Savior</u>.

Can you imagine only a few steps to Jesus only a few steps to Eternal Life?

What sacrifice are you willing to make to find Him?

Jeremiah said, Jeremiah 29:13 - "And you shall seek me and you shall find me, when you have searched for me with all your heart!"

- Is the sign that God gave you worth following?
- You are not <u>here by accident</u> but by the divine will of God so that you may have eternal life.
- The wise men followed and found him.

Wise men still seek Him!

The <u>price has been paid</u>, the <u>blood has been spilled</u>, <u>all you have to bring is you</u> <u>and all your sins and lay them down</u> at the master's feet and *he will cover you* with His blood that was <u>spilled for many for the forgiveness of</u> their sins.

What did you come seeking?

Luke 2:11-18 - ¹¹ Today in the town of David *a Savior has been born to you*; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

I have come <u>to tell you</u> that today salvation is here for who so ever will, let them come and drink of the water of life freely.

Isaiah 55:1-7 - Invitation to the Thirsty

55 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

⁴See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

CLOSE:

Did you come seeking Jesus?

Wise men still seek him......

How far are you willing to go?

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What have you <u>brought him</u> today, have you brought him <u>your sin to lay down</u> at his feet?

What sacrifice are you willing to make to find Him?

Wise men still seek Him!

What did you come seeking?

Revelation 21:1-5 - A New Heaven and a New Earth

21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He will make all things new; His words are proven trustworthy and true!

Come and seek Jesus this morning!!!