

Spiritual Diligence
Matthew 2:1-11 & 16-18

The Magi in Matthew 2 were likely descendants of those who knew this prophecy recorded in _____ – “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.” They had likely learned about it from the teachings of _____ and other Jewish _____. Arriving in Jerusalem, they were sent by Herod to Bethlehem. Guided miraculously by the star, the Magi found Joseph, Mary, and Jesus and worshipped Him—their purpose from the beginning.

Emerging from this text is a theme that will permeate the gospel story. Far too often, those who should be _____ to God and consider themselves to be _____ a part of God’s chosen people are _____ while those who seem to fall short of the mark spiritually are discovered to be _____ to Him.

Spiritual _____ happens when we become so confident in our relationship to God that we stop _____ to His word, either by _____ it altogether or by studying it but not taking it seriously enough to _____.

The Magi, however, are models of spiritual _____ for us in the following ways:

First, they examined God’s word _____. Second, they took God’s word _____ enough to respond in faithfulness. Herod and the Jewish leaders would go few miles to find the Messiah. These outsiders, according to most scholars, traveled between 800 and 1,000 miles in response to God’s word. Third, upon finding Jesus they worshipped Him _____.

What about our worship? Do we give Him our best, the _____ of our time, concentration, devotion, and material resources, or do we give him our _____, our _____?

Let’s exit this season with a new resolve to couple our _____ of God with a _____ for worshipping Him thoroughly, seriously, and wholeheartedly!