

The Christmas Story and the Wise Men

By Kent Heaton

Twas the week before Christmas and all through the land
Not a Bible was open in anyone's hand.
The story of Jesus is told again and again
But the truth of His birth is confused among men.

They tell of his birth in a place called a stable
His mother and father were not even able
To find a room at a place for him at an inn
So they settled for a manger to place the Lord in.

With shepherds around him and wise men there
The story of Jesus is told with small care
A star is above the stable so high
As the scene of His birth is told in a lie.

We read of a story much changed from this
From the words of men who tell it amiss.
They celebrate Christmas as if Christ is there
But never see what the scriptures lay bare.

The Lord was laid in a manger so soft
And the shepherds saw angels singing praises aloft
They came and found Mary and the child in that place
And gave praises to God for His wonderful grace.

But the wise men were not there nor ever would be
They saw the star in the East and made haste to see
The one who was born King of the Jews
The one who would bring such wonderful news.

They found the young child secure in a home
With Mary His mother and Joseph alone.
There were no shepherds as told by men
There was no manger nor ever had been.

They gave Him their gifts and they parted away
Warned by God to go home another way.
Herod came and killed all the males
In his anger and wrath he made Rachel wail.

The story is told in the Bible for all
To heed the true words and the gospel call.
It matters much what the story will say,
We must obey all of He who is the Way.

The apostle John wrote down in his book
That every man must take time to look

At what he may add to the words of this story
Or what he may take from the divine glory.

The story of His birth is one story alone
And man must not change one word or one tone.
God's word is true and will always stand
Through the passing of time and the shifting of sand.

Speak truth my friend and you will find
No other story and no other kind.
So wonderful and glorious as this story told
As the story of Jesus from the pages of old.
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Out of Tune

"The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:9) "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1Cor. 11:1).

Some years ago, musicians noted that errand boys in a certain part of London all whistled out of tune as they went about their work. Someone suggested that it was because the bells of Westminster were slightly out of tune. Something had gone wrong with the chimes and they were not in harmony. The boys did not know anything was wrong with the bells, and had unconsciously copied their pitch.

It is only natural that we, to some degree, mimic those with whom we associate; however, let us not imitate those who are out of tune with Christ.

What Goes In...

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

The story is told of an old violinist whose music charmed audiences with its soothing, mellow sound. Wherever he played, the old violinist received a warm response. When asked the secret of his music, the man pointed to his instrument and said, "A great deal of sunshine must have gone into the wood, and what has gone in, comes out." Isn't that true for us? What's gone into your soul lately?

A Moments Wisdom

- Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.
- The ability to focus attention on important things is a defining characteristic of intelligence.
- Honor is not diminished for being shared.
- You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.
- Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.
- Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.
- Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

- Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself.
- Fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people are often troubled by doubts.
- As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well lived brings a happy death.
- Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember.
- Waste not fresh tears over old griefs.
- Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.
- The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.
- Sow good deeds, and sweet remembrances will grow.