

“The Wise Still Seek Him”

Do you understand the concept of free choice? Do you understand the concept of doing something against another person’s belief or will? Normally, free choice meant we did as we pleased at the time. Both choices always meant that a price would be paid if we offended someone. Sometimes that free choice cost us a particular consequence. We paid the price and sometimes we always hoped that we would never do that particular deed again.

Go back in time to the birth of Jesus. Born in a manger, the lowliest of places to be born, but visited by Magi, men of the priestly class who had traveled a long distance just to see this baby. “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-2) Free choice. The Magi heard of this birth, believed, and went to witness and worship. Free choice. Yes, they did talk to the King but they did not trust him. They knew there was evil in his heart and when they chose to leave Bethlehem they left in a way not to have contact with Herod again. Free choice.

Today there are large numbers of people coming to Christian faith. Many of these large numbers of people are coming from the Middle East, traditionally an Islamic part of the world. Most recently in Afghanistan people have been openly threatened with death for either converting to Christianity or promoting other religions. To sell a book that speaks of Christianity will result in five years in prison. But books are being distributed and people are representing other religions and people are being converted and they know what the consequence will be. Consequences are clearly defined in other parts of the world and it often means a lot of pain and suffering if not death. I think of a wonderful example that is found in the book “Once an Arafat Man”, *the true story of how a PLO sniper found a new life*. (italicized words are subtitle of book , word for word) I highly recommend this book. It is a story of a man who lived by the sword but had friends and these friends saved his life for eternity. He became a man of Christian faith but there was a price to pay. He received death threats from his own family but he did not waver. He eventually visited his family but was not murdered. One naturally has to ask why? My only response would be.... The Wise still seek Him. Are you still seeking?

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

NIV, Matthew 7:7

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