

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 2:7-12.**
- B. The magi, had an encounter with Jesus, and because they saw Him they knew they could no longer return to Herod. Being with Jesus changed their lives.
- C. With our scripture text in mind I want to talk about what it means to have an encounter with Jesus and how it should change our lives.
- D. I am convinced that when we have an encounter with Jesus, we shall walk and talk and go another way.

I. OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS WAS AT OUR CONVERSION.

- A. Our encounter with Jesus is not some miraculous, out of body experience that is foreign to anything which is revealed in the NT. Our encounter with Jesus was when we became a Christian. Two things should have happened:
 - 1. We have the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the HS (Ac. 2:38; 2Cor. 5:17).
 - 2. We are a changed person not walking after the world (Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 3:1-5).
- B. One of the great things about the first century church is that when people became Christians there was a great change in their life. The church was very much unlike the world and grew rapidly.
- C. This is true because they didn't have a Book, they knew the Man. Today, we know the Book but do not know the Man. To know of the Man is to have encountered Him, and you will go home another way.

II. ENCOUNTERS THAT CHANGED LIVES.

- A. There are many examples of people in the NT who changed their lives because they had an encounter with Jesus.
- B. Look at the following:
 - 1. Zaccheus; he gave half to the poor and 4 times to those he cheated (Lk. 19:1-9).
 - 2. The Samaritan woman; she testified of X and caused others to believe (Jn. 4:39-42).
 - 3. Simon Peter; from a catcher of fish to a fisher of men (Mt. 4:18-19; Ac. 4:13).
 - 4. Simon the Zealot and Matthew the publican; before their calling probably hated each other (Mk. 3:16-19).
 - 5. Saul of Tarsus; it took more than doctrine to change him (Ac. 26:10-15).
- C. Each of these people were greatly changed when they met Jesus. It took more than winning an argument, they had to see Jesus.
- D. When we are converted it must be with the attitude that Jesus is going to change us. This is maturity.
- E. What changes can you see in your life that were not there last week, last month, last year? Are you going home another way?

III. THE CHANGES THAT COME FROM KNOWING CHRIST.

- A. When the Bible speaks of conversion and daily Christian living it speaks of change. It speaks of change and growth.
- B. We often only look back at our conversion and see forgiveness of sins and the gift of the HS. Hopefully, we can look back and see the beginnings of a process of change and growth.
- C. Note the following:
 - 1. We are to be in a process of transformation (2Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2).
 - 2. We are to have new things in our life (2Cor. 5:17-18).
 - 3. We are learning and teaching others in our maturity (Heb. 5:11-14).
 - 4. We learn to grow with/together in the church (Eph. 4:11-16).

- 5. We forget the sins of the past and grown forward (Phil. 3:12-14).
- D. There is nothing wrong in knowing the Book, we must (2Tim. 2:15), but we need to know the Man, JC too.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Too many Xian experience the forgiveness of sins in conversion but never really change their lives.
- B. Too many people in the world in the name of religion change their lives but do not have the forgiveness of sins.
- C. Whether we be in X or not, may we have an encounter with Jesus so He can completely change our lives. Then and only then can we "go home another way."
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.