

Sermon Notes – “How Far Are You Willing To Go?”
(January 2, 2022)

Sermon Texts: Genesis 12:1-5, Matthew 2:1-12

Memory Verse: *“For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”* **Luke 2:11**

Introduction: Abraham & Sarah, and the Magi as well, traveled great distances to obey their God. *How far are you willing to go to obey your God?*

I. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-5)

- Received both a **command** and a **promise** from God.
- Command: **Leave** your country and **move** to the “land I will show you.” (vs. 1)
- Promise: You will be a **great nation**; the world will be **blessed** thru you. (vs. 2-3)
- **Distance:** over 500 miles from Haran to Canaan (all on foot!)

II. The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

- Most likely Zoroastrian priests from Persia (present day Iran)
- Discovered, obeyed a prophecy.
- Command: **Follow** the Star.
- Promise: You will **find the baby King of the Jews**.
- **Distance:** At least 1000 miles across the desert, 2000 via river valleys & coastline.

III. How Far Will You Go to Worship the King?

- **Faith** – *Are you willing to trust Jesus for your Salvation?*
- **Obedience** – *Will you learn/follow the teachings of Jesus?*
- **Witness** – *Are you willing to proclaim Jesus as your Lord in the Public Square?*

Summary: The Magi focused on **one thing**: Finding the Savior and worshiping Him. That’s how far they were willing to go to know and live the truth. *Are you willing to go that far?*

Faith Challenge: Identify 3 things you are willing to change this year in order to more closely conform your behavior to Jesus’ teachings

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.” **Matthew 2:11**